

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

IRAQI AUDIT



In this July 17, 2009 file photo, an Iraqi worker operates valves at the Nahrn Omar oil refinery near the city of Basra 340 miles southeast of Baghdad, Iraq. A U.S. audit has found that the Defense Department can't properly account for how it spent about 95 percent of \$9.1 billion in Iraqi oil money earmarked for rebuilding the war-ravaged country.

Read more on Page A8

SPORTS NEWS

RAYS 1ST NO-NO



Tampa Bay Rays starting pitcher Matt Garza raises his arms to celebrate the final out of his no-hitter against the Detroit Tigers in a baseball game Monday, July 26, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays won 5-0.

Read more on Back Page A12

Price of a barrel of petroleum

US\$ 77.50

↓ 1.48

Barge hits well near BP oil spill

KEVIN MCGILL,
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A barge slammed into an abandoned well in a coastal inlet early Tuesday, sending a shower of water, natural gas and oil spewing about 100 feet into the air.

Emergency officials said about 6,000 feet of containment boom was in place around the site in a lake just north of Barataria Bay, which has already been fouled by oil from the massive BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

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In this June 29, 2010 photo, Iraqi army soldiers haul empty ammunition boxes from an abandoned house in the village of al-Bailona, Ninevah province, during an early morning raid with U.S. troops. The soldiers were looking for bombing suspects but the search proved fruitless when security forces arrived to find an all but abandoned village.

Associated Press

U.S. House passes pared-down measure to finance war

JIM ABRAMS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Months behind schedule and stripped of money for domestic economic stimulus programs, legislation to pay for the U.S. troop increase in Afghanistan was sent to President Barack Obama on Tuesday after disgruntled Democrats failed to block it in the House of Representatives.

Continued on Page 4

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Oil spews from a wellhead in Barataria Bay on the coast of Louisiana, Tuesday, July 27, 2010 after it was struck by a tugboat. A crew capable of capping the well is expected onsite later Tuesday.

Associated Press

Koreas mark truce, but drills underscore tensions

ERIC TALMADGE

Associated Press Writer

ABOARD THE USS CURTIS WILBUR (AP) — On the 57th anniversary of the armistice that ended the Korean War, U.S. and South Korean ships intensified high-profile military exercises Tuesday that underscore rising tensions in a region yet to truly find peace.

The massive maneuvers, called "Invincible Spirit," are being conducted by an armada of South Korean and U.S. ships — including the USS George Washington supercarrier — in international waters off the South Korean coast.

The normally quiet patch of the East Sea has been a buzz of military activity — with helicopters dropping sonar buoys into the waters, squadrons of carrier-based F-18 fighters embarking on bombing runs and destroyers



In a Monday, July 26, 2010 photo provided by the Navy Visual News Service, the Los Angeles-class attack submarine USS Tuscon (SSN 770) transits the East Sea while leading a 13-ship formation. The Republic of Korea and the United States are conducting joint exercises in the seas east of the Korean peninsula from July 25-28, 2010.

Associated Press

blasting their guns at unmanned aerial drones.

Continued on Page 7

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It's Finger Lickin' Good!

APNewsBreak: FBI says mastermind of botnet nabbed



The Real Time Crime Center is seen at police headquarters, Thursday, July 22, 2010, in New York. Two years ago, the Federal Communications Commission stumbled as it tried to create a nationwide wireless broadband network for police officers, firefighters and emergency medical workers, delaying the construction of what everyone agrees is an urgently needed system.

By LOLITA C. BALDOR

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON

— International authorities have arrested a computer hacker believed responsible

for creating the malicious computer code that infected as many as 12 million computers, invading major banks and corporations around the world, FBI officials told The

Associated Press

Associated Press on Tuesday. A 23-year-old Slovenian known as Iserdo was snagged in Maribor, Slovenia, after a lengthy investigation by Slovenian Criminal Police there along with FBI and Spanish authorities.

His arrest comes about five months after Spanish police broke up the massive cyber scam, arresting three of the alleged ringleaders who operated the so-called Mariposa botnet, stealing credit cards and online banking credentials. The botnet — a network of infected computers — appeared in December 2008 and infected more than half of the Fortune 1,000 companies and at least 40 major banks.

Botnets are networks of infected PCs that have been hijacked from their owners, often without their knowledge, and put into the control of criminals.

Jeffrey Troy, the FBI's deputy

assistant director for the cyber division, said Tuesday that Iserdo's arrest is a major break in the investigation. He said it will take the alleged cyber mastermind off the street and prevent him from updating the malicious software code or somehow regaining control of computers that are still infected.

Officials declined to release Iserdo's real name and the exact charges filed against him, but said the arrest took place about 10 days ago and the man has been released on bond. "To use an analogy here," said Troy, "as opposed to arresting the guy who broke into your home, we've arrested the guy that gave him the crowbar, the map and the best houses in the neighborhood. And that is a huge break in the investigation of cyber crimes."

Troy said more arrests are expected and are likely to extend beyond Spain

and Slovenia and include additional operators who allegedly bought the malware from Iserdo. Authorities would not say how much Iserdo supposedly charged, but said hackers could buy the software package for a certain amount, or pay more to have it customized or get additional features. Internet reports suggest the fees ranged from as much as \$500 for basic packages to more than \$1,300 for more advanced versions. Cyber masterminds behind the biggest botnets aren't often taken down largely because it is easy for experienced hackers to hide their identities by disguising the source of their Internet traffic. Usually the computer resources they use are stolen. And the investigations are complex and technical, often spanning dozens of countries with conflicting or even non-existing cyber crime laws. □



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Neb. city council votes to delay immigration law

By MARGERY A. BECK
Associated Press Writer

FREMONT, Neb. — A voter-approved ban on hiring and renting property to illegal immigrants was suspended Tuesday by the Fremont City Council, less than two days before it was set to take effect in the eastern Nebraska city. Council members voted 8-0 to delay an ordinance that is being challenged by two federal lawsuits, saying the move will save the city money in its legal defense.

The council narrowly rejected the ban in 2008, prompting supporters to gather enough signatures for the ballot measure. Voters approved the ban last month and it was scheduled to take effect Thursday. The city faces lawsuits from the American Civil Liberties Union and the Mexican American Legal Defense & Educational Fund. "We're relieved that the Fremont City Council will suspend this discriminatory ordinance while it's being litigated," Amy Miller, the ACLU of Nebraska's legal director, said in a statement. "It was a responsible decision that will spare residents of Fremont from worrying about losing housing and jobs because of their appearance and accent pending a final resolution by the court."

The ACLU expected to ask a federal judge Wednesday to temporarily block the ban from taking effect. After the vote, the group said it and the city plan to use the hearing to ask that the ordinance be blocked pending a final court resolution.

The ordinance has divided

the community between those who say it makes up for what they call lax federal law enforcement and others who argue it could fuel discrimination.

Council members had insisted that any suspension would be aimed at saving money on the city's legal defense, but some ban supporters remained skeptical. "They see it as another attempt by the city to block this ordinance," Jerry Hart, a Fremont resident who petitioned for the ballot measure, said ahead of the vote.

City officials have estimated Fremont's costs of implementing the ordinance — including legal fees, employee overtime and improved computer software — would average \$1 million a year.

Council president Scott Getzschman has said it's unclear how much money the city would save by suspending enforcement of the ordinance. He insisted the council is only trying limit legal costs, even if the savings are small.

"It just boils down to the fact that the restraining order and injunction is imminent," Getzschman said before the vote. "And as the city of Fremont, we're looking at ways of reducing costs."

Betty Faux, 69, who owns a lake house just outside the 25,000-resident community, where dozens of homes along a main residential street flew American flags Tuesday, said that's not a good enough argument.

"I think they should go ahead with it; especially since they've got somebody who

A sheriff's vehicle drives past a group of people demonstrating against illegal immigrants, outside the Fremont, Neb., city hall, Tuesday, July 13, 2010. The Fremont City Council approved on Tuesday election officials' certification of a measure passed by voters on June 21, to ban the hiring or renting of housing to illegal immigrants. The law would go into effect in 15 days.

Associated Press will represent them for free," Faux said, referring to Kansas City, Kan.-based attorney Kris Kobach, who drafted the Fremont ordinance and has said he would represent Fremont free of charge to fight lawsuits filed over the ordinance.

Kobach also helped write the Arizona law that directs officers to question people about their immigration status during the enforcement of other laws such as traffic stops and if there's a reasonable suspicion they're in the U.S. illegally.

Kobach told The Associated Press earlier Tuesday that if the council delayed implementation, it would mean fewer court hearings in the litigation process, making the process of hearing the lawsuits shorter and cheaper for the city.

The ordinance has put Fremont on the list with Arizona and other places in the national debate over immigration regulations. Arizona's sweeping law is set to take effect Thursday.

The ACLU and the Mexican American Legal Defense & Education Fund say the Fremont ordinance amounts to discrimination. □



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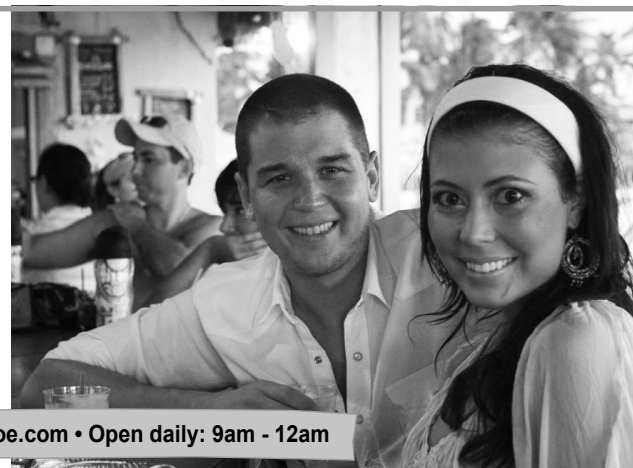


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House lawmaker, ethics panel lawyers talking deal



In this July 23, 2010 file photo, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters in New York. Rangel is making a last-minute effort to settle his ethics case and prevent a trial that could embarrass him and damage the Democratic Party, people familiar with the talks said Tuesday.

Associated Press

LARRY MARGASAK
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A veteran House lawmaker made a last-minute effort Tuesday to settle his ethics case and prevent a House trial that could embarrass him and damage the Democratic

Party in advance of November elections.

The talks between Rep. Charles Rangel's lawyer and the House ethics committee's nonpartisan attorneys were confirmed by ethics Chairman Zoe Lofgren, a Democrat. Lofgren said she is not involved in the talks,

and added that the committee's lawmakers have always accepted the professional staff's recommendations in previous plea bargains.

Rangel, a 40-year House veteran who is 80 years old, would have to admit to multiple, substantial ethics violations for any plea bargain to be accepted. Earlier negotiations broke down when Rangel would only admit to some allegations — not enough to satisfy the committee lawyers, according to people familiar with those talks who were not authorized to be quoted by name.

He is the former chairman of the powerful tax-writing Ways and Means Committee and one of the most influential black members of Congress, representing New York's Harlem district.

If the talks are not successful, trial proceedings for Rangel would begin Thursday with

a reading of alleged ethics violations that are still confidential.

An equally divided Democrat-Republican, eight-member subcommittee led by Lofgren would then conduct the actual trial later and decide whether the charges are proved by clear and convincing evidence.

The members are separate from the four-member investigative panel that charged Rangel with multiple violations connected to his fundraising, financial disclosure and failure to pay taxes on income from a resort unit. If the case ends with either a plea bargain or a finding of guilt, the ethics committee would make a decision on punishment that could range from a critical report, to a censure by the House or an expulsion vote.

In previous cases, the only matter to go through a trial was the case of former Rep. Jim Traficant, who was

expelled by a 420-1 vote in 2002. He went to prison after his conviction for racketeering and bribery.

Some Democrats have called for Rangel to resign. Others have returned money he raised for them. Many Democrats are worried that they will be responding to negative election campaign ads about Rangel if a trial gets under way in September.

An ethics case against former Republican Rep. Mark Foley, involving his suggestive e-mails to former male pages, or messengers, coincided with the 2006 campaign and was among the reasons the Republicans lost control of the House.

House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, who was not confirming any negotiations, told reporters Tuesday, "I think everybody would like to have it go away in the sense that this is not a pleasant process." □

PARED-DOWN MEASURE *Continued from Front Page*

Democratic leaders had to rely on Republican support to pass the almost \$59 billion measure to finance Obama's additional 30,000 troops in Afghanistan and other programs. The final vote was 308-114. Twelve Republicans and 102 Democrats opposed it.

Pentagon leaders have warned that money to pay for the troops could run out as early as Aug. 7, prompting the House, which is leaving at the end of the week for its August recess, to accept the pared-down Senate version of the legislation.

Last week the Senate rejected a larger, House-favored bill that would have included billions of dollars to help keep teachers on the job, provide aid for college students and enhance border security.

With the new war spending, the total amount of money that Congress has allotted for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan surpasses \$1 trillion.

House Appropriations Committee Chairman David Obey, a Democrat, said he was torn between his obligation to bring the bill to the floor and his "profound skepticism" that the money would lead to a successful conclusion of the war in Afghanistan.

Even if Americans could have greater confidence in the Afghan government, he said, "it would likely take so long it will obliterate our ability to make the kinds of long-term investments in our own country that are so desperately needed."

Democratic Rep. Jim McGovern cited recently released classified documents he said revealed some of the corruption and incompetence of the Afghanistan government.

"We're told we can't extend unemployment or pay to keep cops on the beat or teachers in the classroom, but we're asked to borrow another \$33 billion for nation-building in Afghanistan," he said. "I think we need to do more nation-building here at home." Obama urged passage of the war-funding bill, saying in a Rose Garden statement Tuesday that it was needed "to ensure that our troops have the resources they need and that we're able to do what's necessary for our national security."

The president also mentioned the unauthorized release of sensitive documents, thousands of battlefield reports saying he was concerned they "could potentially jeopardize individuals or operations."

Republicans in turn chided Democrats for delaying

for months before ending up with the same bill the Senate passed in May.

"We've been through all of this wrangling, and for what? All we've created is more uncertainty for our troops in the field, more uncertainty for the Pentagon, and it's all unnecessary," House Republican leader John Boehner said at a news conference.

The president requested the emergency funding last February. After the Senate passed it in May, the House approved on July 1 its own version that added more than \$20 billion in domestic spending to the military bill.

The Senate last week rejected that approach, falling 14 votes short of what was needed to break a GOP-led blocking tactic.

The bill includes more than \$33.5 billion for the additional 30,000 troops in Afghanistan and to pay for other Pentagon operational expenses, \$5.1 billion to replenish the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster relief fund, \$6.2 billion for State Department aid programs in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and Haiti, and \$13.4 billion in benefits for Vietnam veterans exposed to the defoliant Agent Orange. □

Court reverses polygamist leader convictions

JENNIFER DOBNER

Associated Press Writer

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — The convictions of polygamist leader Warren Jeffs were reversed on Tuesday by the Utah Supreme Court, which ordered a new trial and said a jury received incorrect instructions before considering

his role in the 2001 nuptials of a 14-year-old girl to her 19-year-old cousin.

Jeffs, 54, was convicted in 2007 of two counts of first-degree felony rape as an accomplice. He is serving two consecutive terms of five years to life in the Utah State Prison.

BARGE

Continued from Front Page

While there was no estimate of how much oil was spewing Tuesday, officials said the mile-long slick it created was small compared with the Gulf spill.

The Coast Guard said the towboat Pere Ana C was pushing the barge on Mud Lake when it hit the wellhead about 1 a.m. No one was hurt.

The towboat captain told investigators the well was not lit as required, Coast Guard Capt. John Arenstam said.

The Coast Guard hired Wild Well Control Inc. to begin attempts to cap the well later Tuesday. Another contractor is handling cleanup.

The Coast Guard identified the well owner as Houston-based Cedyco Corp., but authorities said they had been unable to contact the company. Calls to Cedyco by The Associated Press were not returned Tuesday.

Deano Bonano, a Jefferson Parish emergency management official, said the spill was “miniscule” in comparison to the BP spill that has dumped millions of gallons of oil into the Gulf.

Bonano said the accident, which blocked traffic into Barataria Bay, would not stop attempts by cleanup crews to return to the Gulf after a weekend interruption from the remnants of Tropical Storm Bonnie.

He said no new oil has reached Barataria Bay from the BP spill in the last three weeks and said boats and equipment could be dispatched from other sites along the Louisiana coast, such as Grand Isle.

Mud Lake is at the northern approaches to Barataria Bay, an ecologically sensitive estuary south of New Orleans. □

NYC settles 50-bullet cop lawsuit for \$7M

NEW YORK (AP) — The city of New York has agreed to pay more than \$7 million to settle a civil lawsuit stemming from the fatal 50-bullet police shooting of an unarmed man on his wedding day.

The settlement filed in Brooklyn federal court on Tuesday pays \$3.25 million to the estate of Sean Bell, who was killed in 2006 outside a strip club in Queens while leaving his bachelor party. As part of the settlement, the city agreed to pay \$3 million to Joseph Guzman and \$900,000 to Trent Benefield, both of whom were wounded in the shooting that killed their friend. The lawsuit had accused the city of wrongful

death, negligence, assault and civil rights violations.

“We hope that all parties can find some measure of closure by this settlement,” the city’s attorney, Michael A. Cardozo, said in a statement.

An attorney for the plaintiffs, Scott Rynecki, said the settlement was hard-fought over two days and that the plaintiffs felt it was the best outcome possible. “I think it was all about closure at this point,” Rynecki told The Associated Press in a phone interview. Three police officers were acquitted of manslaughter and other charges in 2008. Federal authorities in February declined to bring civil rights charges against them. □

A telephone call seeking comment from the Washington County attorney’s office and the Utah attorney was not immediately returned Tuesday. Jeffs’ lawyers scheduled a news conference later Tuesday.

Jeffs is head of the Fundamental Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The group, based on the Utah-Arizona state line, practices polygamy in marriages arranged by church leaders.

Jeffs performed the religious marriage of Elissa Wall and Allen Steed in a Nevada motel and later counseled Wall to be obedient and give her “mind, body and soul” to her husband in an effort to make an unhappy marriage work.

During the trial and later in

her book, “Stolen Innocence,” Wall said she objected to the marriage and was forced into sexual relations with her husband.

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of alleged sexual assault, but Wall has frequently spoken publicly about the case.

In its ruling Tuesday, the court agreed with defense attorneys who argued that jurors should not have been told to decide whether Wall’s marital relations were consensual based on Jeffs’ actions and his role as her religious leader. That essentially equates Jeffs with Steed — the person who allegedly has had nonconsensual sex.

Justices said prosecutors were wrong to make that leap. q



In this Sept. 25, 2007 file photo, Warren Jeffs reacts as he listens to the jury being polled after handing down the verdicts against him in St. George, Utah. The Utah Supreme Court on Tuesday, July 27, 2010 reversed the convictions of polygamist leader Warren Jeffs and ordered a new trial.

Associated Press

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NATO: 1 missing sailor killed in Afghanistan



In this May 3, 2009 photo released by the Patriot Guard Riders and provided by the Kingman Daily Miner, U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin McNeley, 30, who was killed after he and another Navy sailor went missing in the eastern province of Logar, Afghanistan on Friday, June 23, 2010, attends a deployment party in Kingman, Ariz.

Associated Press

HEIDI VOGT

Associated Press Writer

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — One of two U.S. sailors missing in Afghanistan since last week — a 30-year-old father of two — has been confirmed dead and his body recovered, a NATO spokesman said Tuesday.

The search continues for the other missing sailor, said Lt. Col. Todd Breasseale, a spokesman for NATO and U.S. forces in Afghanistan.

The two Navy personnel went missing Friday in the eastern province of Logar, after an armored sport utility vehicle was seen driving into a Taliban-held area. The Taliban have said they killed one of the two men in a firefight, captured the other and are holding him in a “safe place” where he will not be found.

In a statement, the NATO-led command said the body was recovered Sunday after an extensive search and that the coalition “holds the captors accountable for the safety and proper treatment of our missing service member.”

NATO officials were unable to say what the two service members were doing in such a dangerous part of eastern Afghanistan.

The sailors were instructors at a counterinsurgency school for Afghan security forces, according to senior military officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the case. The school was headquartered in Kabul and had classrooms outside the capital, but they were never assigned anywhere near where the body of the sailor was recovered, the officials said.

The Pentagon identified the dead sailor as Petty Officer 2nd Class Justin McNeley, 30, of Wheatridge, Colorado, and the missing sailor as Petty Officer 3rd Class Jarod Newlove, 25, of Renton, Washington. The Pentagon listed Newlove’s whereabouts as unknown and is not confirming he was captured.

Jim Kerr, a Colorado legislator from the Denver suburb of Littleton, said McNeley was his wife’s nephew.

McNeley was from Colorado but moved to Kingman, Arizona, in 2004, three years after he joined the U.S. Navy. His mother lives in Kingman and his father is a fire official in Encinitas, California.

Kerr told The Denver Post that McNeley, a noncommissioned officer and father of two sons, was due to return to the U.S. in August.

The only other American service member in Taliban captivity is Spc. Bowe Bergdahl of Hailey, Idaho, who disappeared June 30, 2009, in Paktika province, also in eastern Afghanistan. That area is heavily infiltrated by the Haqqani network, which has deep links

to al-Qaida. Bergdahl has since been shown in Taliban videos online.

New York Times reporter David Rohde was also kidnapped in Logar province while trying to meet with a Taliban commander. He and an Afghan colleague escaped in June 2009 after seven months in captivity, most of it spent in Taliban sanctuaries in Pakistan.

Hundreds of fliers, with reprinted photos of the two sailors, have been distributed throughout Logar province where NATO troops were stopping and searching vehicles. NATO has offered a \$20,000 reward for information leading to the surviving sailor’s location.

Separately in Afghanistan, Britain’s Ministry of Defense said Tuesday that a British soldier, who was serving with a task force working to counter homemade bombs, died Monday in a blast in the Sangin district of Helmand province in what may have been a case of “friendly fire.”

The ministry said a smoke screen was requested to allow the soldiers to work safely, and “it is believed that one of the smoke shells may have fallen short of its intended target.”

Also in the south, insurgents launched two rockets that struck the Zabul provincial governor’s house Tuesday night, according to the governor’s spokesman Mohammad Jan Rasoolyar. The governor escaped injury, but one girl was killed and two other children were injured, he said. A third rocket missed the house.

In the relatively peaceful northeastern province of Parwan, insurgents killed six Afghan construction workers and kidnapped a government official, NATO said.

The construction workers were driving through Siagerd district Monday when they came under fire from insurgents. Afghan police responded and drove back the militants, who kidnapped the district attorney general as they fled, NATO said.

Taliban insurgents regularly target civilians they see as complicit with the government, including those working on government-funded projects like roads and public buildings.

While the deputy provincial police chief confirmed that the dead were civilians, Faqir Ahmad said they comprised two families driving to nearby Bamiyan province for a vacation. Ahmad said two women and one child were among the dead. He did not have any information on whether there were construction workers involved.

Ahmad said the district official was released the same day through negotiations with insurgents. □



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KOREAS

Continued from Front Page

The exercises come just four months after a South Korean warship was sunk, allegedly by a torpedo from a North Korean submarine, in the worst attack on the South's military since the Korean War ended in a shaky truce on July 27, 1953.

North Korea has strongly denied attacking the ship in which 46 sailors died. It has threatened to retaliate over the four-day maneuvers that end on Wednesday, but senior officers aboard the U.S. ships said no North Korean military activity has been observed.

The Koreas technically remain at war because fighting ended in a truce, not a peace treaty. On Tuesday, the Koreas and the U.S. marked the anniversary of the signing of the armistice.

"Since our nation's founding, the United States has relied on our armed forces to ensure our safety and security at home, and to protect lives and liberties around the globe," President Barack Obama said

in a statement. "I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities that honor our distinguished Korean War veterans."

Gen. Walter Sharp, chief of 28,500 troops in South Korea, said the region remains tense, but stressed that the U.S. and South Korean alliance is strong.

"The Korean peninsula has not been entirely at peace for the past 57 years," Sharp said during a ceremony at the Korean border village of Panmunjom. He said the U.S. and South Korea are ready to "defeat any future provocation from North Korea."

"We are stronger than we have ever been," he said.

Meanwhile, soldiers in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, marked the anniversary of the "Fatherland Liberation War" by laying bouquets at a memorial. Residents held rallies and danced, according to the official Korean Central News Agency.

North Korean army officer Hong Sung Chol told APTN

in Pyongyang the naval maneuvers were an attempt to stifle his country.

"The U.S. imperialists, together with their South Korean puppets, are finally staging large-scale joint military exercises in the East Sea of Korea, despite the strong opposition of the Korean and world people," he said.

The regime also pressed its demand for a full peace treaty. North Korea wants to establish diplomatic relations with Washington to guarantee the U.S. won't invade and topple Kim Jong Il's dynastic communist government.

Pyongyang cites the presence of U.S. troops in South Korea as a key reason for building up its atomic weapons program. The U.S. repeatedly has said it has no intention of attacking the North.

But this week's exercises were intended to warn the North that Seoul and Washington will not tolerate acts of aggression.

The exercises involve about 20 ships, 200 aircraft and about 8,000 U.S. and South



In this photo provided by the U.S. Navy, the guided-missile destroyers USS Lassen (DDG 82), left, and USS Chung-Hoon (DDG 93) are underway Tuesday, July 27, 2010 in the Sea of Japan. The Republic of Korea and the United States are conducting the combined alliance maritime and air readiness exercise "Invincible Spirit" in the seas east of the Korean peninsula from July 25-28, 2010. This is the first in a series of joint military exercises that will occur over the coming months.

Korean sailors. At the center of the maneuvers is the USS George Washington, a floating fortress that can carry up to 70 aircraft and more than 5,000 sailors and aviators.

As fighters flew off the decks of the carrier and South Korea's defense minister toured the ship, about a half dozen destroyers stepped

up their part of the drills by dropping anti-submarine bombs and firing artillery at target drones.

"It's a show of force, a deterrent," said Capt. Paul Hogue, commanding officer of the USS Curtis Wilbur. He said the exercises have been a success. "I think it's gotten their attention," he said. □

Associated Press

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Audit: U.S. cannot account for \$8.7B in Iraqi funds

TAREK EL-TABLAUWY

AP Business Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — A U.S. audit has found that the Pentagon cannot account for over 95 percent of \$9.1 billion in Iraq reconstruction money, spotlighting Iraqi complaints that there is little to show for the massive funds pumped into their cash-strapped, war-ravaged nation.

The \$8.7 billion in question was Iraqi money managed by the Pentagon, not part of the \$53 billion that Congress has allocated for rebuilding. It's cash that Iraq, which relies on volatile oil revenues to fuel its spending, can ill afford to lose. "Iraq should take legal action to get back this huge amount of money," said Sabah al-Saedi, chairman of the Parliamentary Integrity Committee. The money "should be spent for rebuilding the country and providing services for this poor nation."

The report by the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction accused the Defense Department of lax oversight and weak controls, though not fraud.

"The breakdown in controls left the funds vulnerable to inappropriate uses and undetected loss," the audit said.

The Pentagon has repeatedly come under fire for apparent mismanagement of the reconstruction effort—ashave Iraqi officials themselves.

Seven years after the U.S.-led invasion, electricity service



In this Jan 24, 2004 file photo, fires flare off the gas from crude oil at Iraq's oldest oil processing plant in the northern Iraqi town of Baba Gurgur, outside Kirkuk, Iraq. A U.S. audit has found that the Defense Department can't properly account for how it spent about 95 percent of \$9.1 billion in Iraqi oil money earmarked for rebuilding the war-ravaged country.

is spotty, with generation capacity falling far short of demand. Fuel shortages are common and unemployment remains high, a testament to the country's inability to create new jobs or attract foreign investors.

Complaints surfaced from the start of the war in 2003, when soldiers failed to secure banks, armories and other facilities against looters. Since then the allegations have only multiplied, including investigations of fraud, awarding of contracts without the required government bidding process and allowing contractors to charge exorbitant fees with little

oversight, or oversight that came too late.

But the latest report comes at a particularly critical time for Iraq. Four months after inconclusive elections, a new government has yet to be formed, raising fears that insurgents will tap into the political vacuum to stir sectarian unrest.

In a sign that insurgents are still intent on igniting sectarian violence, at least six people were killed and dozens more wounded when a female suicide bomber blew herself up near a checkpoint in the holy city of Karbala, local police said. They spoke on condition of anonymity because they

Associated Press were not authorized to speak to the media.

Thousands of Shiite pilgrims are converging on the city, 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Baghdad, for an important religious holiday marking the birth of a Shiite saint known as the "Hidden Imam" who disappeared in the ninth century. Such mass displays of devotion by Shiites have often been targeted by Sunni extremists.

Iraqi lawmakers met Tuesday, but for the second time this month failed to convene a parliament session, leaving wide open the question of when the new government will take shape.

Underscoring its financial challenges, the International Monetary Fund in March approved a \$3.6 billion loan to help Iraq meet its obligations. Iraq is projected to run a deficit through 2011, according to analysts, with a possibility of a surplus following that hinging on oil prices.

Iraq took a financial hit in 2008 as oil prices plummeted on the back of the global financial meltdown. While those prices have since rebounded, Iraq remains at the mercy of international oil markets, with revenues from petroleum sales accounting for over 90 percent of its government budget.

The \$9.1 billion in question came from the Development

Fund for Iraq, which was set up by the U.N. Security Council in 2003. The DFI includes revenues from Iraq's oil and gas exports, as well as frozen Iraqi assets and surplus funds from the defunct, Saddam Hussein-era U.N. oil-for-food program.

Iraq had given the U.S. authorization to tap into the fund, which is held in New York, for humanitarian and reconstruction efforts, withdrawing that approval in December 2007.

With the establishment of the Coalition Provisional Authority, which ran Iraq shortly after the start of the U.S. invasion in 2003 until mid-2004, about \$20 billion was placed into the account. The \$9.1 billion audited by the Iraq reconstruction inspector general were funds withdrawn from that account between 2004 and 2007.

The report found that the Defense Department could not "readily account for its obligations, expenditures and remaining balances associated" with the DFI. At issue was \$8.7 billion, or 95 percent of the withdrawn funds.

Of this amount, the Pentagon could not account at all for \$2.6 billion, according to the audit. Tracing the rest of the money is difficult because of a combination of lax financial controls and management, the failure to designate an organization to oversee the spending and the failure to set up and deposit the funds in special accounts, as required by the Treasury Department.

The Defense Department, in responses attached to the audit, said it agreed with the report's recommendations to establish better guidelines for monitoring such funds, including appointing an oversight organization mostly likely by November.

The failure to properly manage billions in reconstruction funds has also hobbled the troubled U.S.-led effort to rebuild Afghanistan. About \$60 billion have poured into Afghanistan since 2001 in hopes of bringing electricity, clean water, jobs, roads and education to the crippled country. □



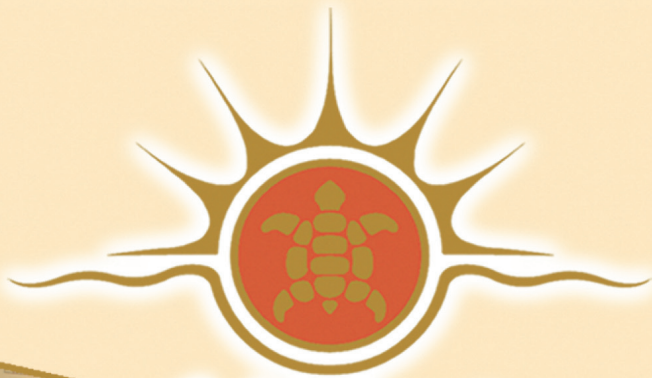
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UK court blocks extradition of ex-Bosnian leader

RAPHAEL G. SATTER
Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — A British judge has thwarted an attempt to force former Bosnian leader Ejup Ganic to stand trial for war crimes in Serbia, blasting Belgrade's attempt to extradite him as abusive and politically motivated. Ganic's release ends a five-month-long legal battle that reignited tensions between the former Balkan foes, who have been making fitful progress toward reconciliation after the end of the 1992-1995 Bosnian conflict.

Judge Timothy Workman said he believed the extradition proceedings "are brought and are being used for political purposes, and as such amount to the abuse of process of this court." He blocked the extradition and freed Ganic immediately. Ganic's daughter, Emina, burst into tears when the verdict was read out, hugging her father and other supporters. Ganic's son, Emir, said the family was traveling home and would be in Sarajevo, Bosnia's capital, by Wednesday.

"We're all extremely satisfied," Emir Ganic told The Associated Press. "This shows how dishonest the Serbian prosecution was." Serbian prosecutors said they would appeal, but it was unclear how such a move could be carried out, particularly since Ganic is leaving the country.

Ganic was alleged to have taken part in war crimes in the opening days of the bloody struggle, when Bosnia's president had been captured and its capital was under siege. Serbian prosecutors say that Ganic, appointed acting president of Bosnia on May 2, 1992, personally commanded a series of attacks on illegal targets across the city, including an officers' club, a military hospital and what the Serbs describe as a medical convoy making its way out of town.

But Workman dismissed the allegations, saying the officers' club was a valid target and that the medical convoy was in fact packed with army vehicles and military equipment. As for the hospital, Workman said

it was "more likely than not" that it wasn't attacked on the day Ganic took charge. He was also scathing in his indictment of Serbian officials, calling their only witness unreliable and their evidence insignificant.

Given that two separate investigations have already found insufficient evidence to charge Ganic with any crime, Workman said he could see only two reasons to persist in trying to bring him to court: "That of incompetence by the Serbian prosecutors or a motive for prosecuting that is based upon politics, race, or religion."

Ganic, 64, told reporters outside the court that he was arrested in an effort to divert attention from Serbia's role in the conflict.

"They abused the system here, and kept me here for five months," Ganic said from the steps of the City of Westminster Magistrates' Court. "They are messing around in the international scene to cover up the war crimes they are responsible for." Ganic, who was briefly imprisoned and has since



Former Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic, center, arrives for an extradition hearing flanked by his daughter Emina, left, and his son Emir at Westminster Magistrates Court in London, Wednesday, July 14, 2010. Ganic was arrested at London's Heathrow airport following an extradition request from Serbia that alleges he conspired to murder wounded soldiers, in breach of the Geneva Convention, police said. The former Bosnian vice president was trying to leave the United Kingdom when he was detained.

Associated Press

been held under strict house arrest, then walked off to celebrate with his family. Serbia's war crimes prosecutor, Vladimir Vukcevic, who attended the hearing, maintained that there was no abuse on his part. Speaking through a translator, he said he needed to review the judge's decision before responding to it in detail.

Back in Belgrade, deputy

war crimes prosecutor Bruno Vekaric, said his government would push for an appeal. "We will try to get the answers that are bothering the families of more than 60 victims," he said. In Bosnia, there was relief at the release.

"Justice has finally been done," Haris Silajdzic, Chairman of Bosnia's Presidency, told the AP in Sarajevo. □

Germany plans memorial for music festival victims



Pictures of a victim, flowers and candles are set out at a tunnel in Duisburg, western Germany, on Tuesday, July 27, 2010, where 20 people were killed in a stampede during the Love Parade techno music festival last Saturday. More than a million people celebrated at a former cargo train station, when 20 young people were killed and hundreds got injured in a mass panic at the only entrance and exit.

By JUERGEN BAETZ, Associated Press Writer
BERLIN — A memorial service will be held for the 20 people crushed to death in a mass panic at the Love Parade techno festival, German officials said Tuesday, as

(AP Photo/Martin Meissner) hundreds of people lit candles, left notes and placed flowers at the site of the tragedy. People in the western German city of Duisburg gathered to express their grief near where the victims died and 500 others were injured in a jammed

Angelina Jolie says Pitt is 'wonderful father'

By MARI YAMAGUCHI, Associated Press Writer
TOKYO — Actress Angelina Jolie, in Tokyo for the weekend opening of action thriller "Salt," brushed off rumors about her shaky relations with Brad Pitt. "He was just a wonderful father," she said Tuesday of Pitt, during work on the film, in which she plays a tough spy. He often brought the children to the set, she recalled. "They played with fake blood, and they found mommy very strange in her different hair," she said. Pitt and Jolie have been partners since they began a relationship while working on the 2005 film "Mr. & Mrs. Smith." They are raising six children. Last week, Pitt and Jolie accepted undisclosed damages in London's High Court to settle a privacy claim against

a British tabloid that had reported in January that they were planning to split. Asked about her ability to work and maintain a happy family, Jolie told reporters at a Tokyo hotel: "Brad is the word that makes it possible." Jolie, who arrived Monday, brought four of the children along on the Japan trip. They have already spent some time shopping for toys inspired by Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki's animation characters Ponyo and Totoro, she said. Jolie, 35, acknowledged she once surprised her 8-year-old son Maddox with her disguise as a male naval officer in "Salt." He came into the room and reluctantly shook hands with the person he didn't know was his mother. "And I said, 'Honey, it's mommy,'" Jolie said.

tunnel that was the lone entry to the annual festival meant to celebrate peace and love. Some cried and clung to loved ones. Many lined up to sign a condolence book placed between two red candles in the middle of the tunnel. People also expressed deep anger at city authorities, particularly Mayor Adolf Sauerland, whom they blame for failing to adequately plan for the event. Organizers have come under fire for allegedly trying to squeeze as many as 1.4 million revelers into too small a space and for allowing only one access point onto the grounds. One note read: "Sauerland, resign! You failed." Chancellor Angela Merkel and President Christian Wulff will attend the ecumenical ceremony at a church in Duisburg on Saturday, according to their offices. Merkel's office said she would interrupt a summer vacation to attend. □



U.S. actress Angelina Jolie waves during the Japan premiere of her spy action-thriller film "Salt" in Tokyo, Tuesday, July 27, 2010. (AP Photo/Shizuo Kambayashi) "I think I freaked him out," she said with a laugh, adding that he then watched her peel off her fake ears, hands and nose. "I play these roles, but I'm always in every minute of their mom first," she said. "I'm a bit of a goof. I'm funny at home, I think." Her children aren't going to be seeing the movie, though. "I think it's very hard for them to see someone trying to kill their mom, even if she wins," she said. □



In this film publicity image released by the Toronto Film Festival, Carey Mulligan, left, and Keira Knightley are shown in a scene from "Never Let Me Go."

(AP Photo/Toronto Film Festival)

Kidman, Affleck films among Toronto fest debuts

By DAVID GERMAIN, AP Movie Writer

LOS ANGELES — A showcase for potential Academy Awards contenders and big fall releases, September's Toronto International Film Festival will feature titles starring Nicole Kidman, Ben Affleck, Robert De Niro, Natalie Portman, Keanu Reeves, Keira Knightley and Carey Mulligan.

The Toronto festival announced many of the titles Tuesday that will be screened at the event Sept. 9-19.

Affleck directs and stars in the heist tale "The Town," playing a thief who falls for a bank manager his crew takes hostage on their last job. Other actors-turned-directors premiering films at the festival include Robert Redford with the Abraham Lincoln assassination tale "The Conspirator," starring James McAvoy, Robin Wright Penn, Kevin Kline and Evan Rachel Wood; David Schwimmer with "Trust," featuring Clive Owen and Catherine Keener as parents of a teenage girl raped by a pedophile she met online; and Emilio Estevez, who directs his father, Martin Sheen, in "The Way," a drama about a father on a pilgrimage after his son's death.

Knightley and Mulligan star with Andrew Garfield, recently cast in the title role of the next "Spider-Man" movie, in director Mark Romanek's "Never Let Me Go," a drama about boarding school friends coming to grips with their sheltered past as adults in the real world.

The festival also features Kidman and Aaron Eckhart as parents grieving over the death of their son in John Cameron Mitchell's "Rabbit Hole"; De Niro and Edward Norton in John Curran's "Stone," about a prison inmate plotting his release by manipulating a parole officer; Reeves in Malcolm Venville's "Henry's Crime," about a man wrongly convicted for bank robbery who decides to pull a heist for real after he's released from prison; and Portman as a ballerina in Darren Aronofsky's "Black Swan," a psychological thriller set behind the scenes at a dance company. Also premiering will be "Miral," from director Julian Schnabel ("The Diving Bell and the Butterfly"), with Freida Pinto in the tale of a girl growing up in war-torn East Jerusalem.

Toronto festival director Piers Handling said the lineup reflects the "abundance of exciting works from established and emerging filmmakers in the world of cinema."

Among other Toronto premieres: George Hickenlooper's "Casino Jack," starring Kevin Spacey as disgraced Washington lobbyist Jack Abramoff; John Madden's "The Debt," with Helen Mirren and Sam Worthington in a tale of Israeli agents tracking a Nazi war criminal; Mike Mills' "Beginners," about a son (Ewan McGregor) dealing with bombshell news after his 71-year-old father (Christopher Plummer) announces he is gay; and Tony Goldwyn's "Conviction," with Hilary Swank as a woman trying to clear her brother (Sam Rockwell) of a murder rap. □



Construction worker Trent Gardner carries a column for a new home in Matthews, North Carolina, April 15, 2010.

REUTERS/Chris Keane/Files

Consumer confidence dims as home prices climb

By Lynn Adler

NEW YORK (Reuters) – Job worries drove July U.S. consumer confidence to its lowest since February, with one in six people expecting lower income in the next six months, underscoring the precarious state of economic recovery.

Home prices rose in May but display no signs of a sustained rebound as long as unemployment flirts with 10 percent and a record stockpile of foreclosed houses looms over the market, a separate report showed on Tuesday.

Single-family house prices remain 29.1 percent below peaks four years ago, according to a Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index. The deepest housing crash since the Great Depression dragged the U.S. economy into recession, and is doing little to stimulate broader growth as many economists fret about a possible double-dip recession.

The Conference Board, a New York-based business and economics research group, reported that consumer attitudes worsened this month as did expectations about jobs being hard to get. "Concerns about business conditions and the labor market are casting a dark cloud over consumers that is not likely to lift until the job market improves," said Lynn Franco, Director of The Conference Board Consumer Research Center.

The group's index of consumer attitudes fell to 50.4 in July from an upwardly revised 54.3 in June, below the median forecast of 51 in a Reuters poll.

The "jobs hard to get" reading, meanwhile, rose to 45.8 percent from 43.5 percent.

The tepid consumer data tempered stock market gains. U.S. Treasuries fell in the face of new supply.

"There have been quite a few headwinds -- the fiscal stimulus is fading, the European situation certainly did have an impact on consumer confidence and inventories are being brought more into line," said David Sloan, economist at 4Cast Ltd in New York. "But clearly the big problem for consumers is jobs."

U.S. unemployment stood at 9.5 percent in June, the lowest in nearly a year, but reflected people leaving the workforce rather than a trend toward greater hiring.

New jobless benefits claims, to be reported by the Labor Department on Thursday, are seen as dipping to 459,000 in the week ended July 24 from a surprisingly high 464,000 the prior week.

Stocks fall slightly on consumer confidence report

By STEPHEN BERNARD,
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK – The stock market's rally was chilled Tuesday by news that consumers are becoming more pessimistic.

Stocks fell modestly after three days of big gains. The Dow Jones industrial average was up 17 points, but much of its advance was due to DuPont Co., which was lifted by strong earnings. Broader indexes dropped slightly.

The Conference Board's report that its Consumer Confidence Index fell to 50.4 from June's revised reading of 54.3 distracted investors from another batch of upbeat earnings reports. The market had expected the index to come in at 51.

Consumer confidence has been falling in recent months as people have waited in vain for a turnaround in the job market. That has made many consumers hesitant to spend and in turn raised concerns about whether the economic recovery would continue. Many retail stocks fell after the confidence number was released.

Companies have a very different take on the economy from consumers. Chemical maker DuPont on Tuesday joined the growing number of big corporations that have raised their forecasts for the future. DuPont also easily beat analysts' predictions for its second-quarter profit and revenue.

Still, investors have been torn over the past few months between buying on companies' upbeat reports and selling on government and private sector numbers that keep pointing to a slowing of the economy.

"Investors are really uncertain whether to focus on the underlying economy or



Traders Stephen Perciballi, and Jason Harper
Traders Stephen Perciballi, left, and Jason Harper, center, work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

earnings," said Tyler Vernon, principal and portfolio manager at Biltmore Capital Advisors.

Earnings had investors' attention the past two weeks but the occasional economic number can sometimes trump companies' results, Vernon said. When earnings reports are done, unsettling data on jobs, housing and consumer spending will dominate trading, and may well lead to more selling.

Traders initially shrugged off the consumer confidence report, then began selling.

John Brady, a senior vice president at MF Global in Chicago, said there is little that's likely to turn around consumer confidence in the near future. Consumers won't become more optimistic until they see a drop in unemployment and clear signs that employers are hiring.

"I don't know what turns

around confidence aside from jobs growth," Brady said.

The Dow rose 13.78, or 0.1 percent, to 10,539.21.

The Dow has surged in July, rising 7.7 percent during the month. The sharp gains helped push the index back into the black for the year on Monday. In the past three trading days alone, the Dow has jumped 405 points, or 4 percent, because of consistently strong earnings and outlooks.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.52, or 0.1 percent, to 1,113.49, while the Nasdaq composite index fell 8.44, or 0.4 percent, to 2,287.99.

Losing stocks were ahead of gainers by 3 to 2 on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 728 million shares.

Bond prices fell, sending their yields higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note rose to 3.05 percent from 2.99 percent late Monday.

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



NBA Houston Rockets Yao Ming, left, receives pineapple treats from Taipei mayor Hau long-bin during a media event announcing his personal Yao Foundation Charity Tour in Taipei, Taiwan, Tuesday, July 27, 2010. Yao, along with other NBA players, will hold charity games against local pop icons and basketball players Wednesday, July 28, in Taipei.

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — Houston Rockets center Yao Ming is pondering quitting basketball if he doesn't fully recover from his lingering foot injury next season.

In wide-ranging comments to Chinese state media on Monday, Yao sounded far from optimistic about his future and also made a rare criticism of China's national basketball program.

"If the foot injury does not heal next season, I might choose to call it quits," Yao said.

Yao missed last season following foot surgery, but is set to return to the Rockets after deciding not to opt out of the final year of his contract. Though he has said his recovery was going well, the Rockets have signed 7-foot veteran Brad Miller to share the

Women's British Open

Kerr eyes top of women's rankings

SOUTHPORT, England (AP) — Cristie Kerr has sights set on a return to the top of world rankings when she tees off at the Women's British Open at Royal Birkdale on Thursday. Kerr is currently third behind Japan's Ai Miyazato and top-ranked Jiyai Shin of South Korea, the winner of last week's Evian Masters. The American reached the top for the first time in her career in late June after winning the LPGA Championship, before slipping back. Kerr now believes that two more tournament victories would restore that ranking.

"It adds a bit more spice to this week," she said. "Every week counts and you have a chance to be number one every week, so it's going to be exciting



Cristie Kerr lines up a putt on the seventh green during the second round of the U.S. Women's Open golf tournament at Oakmont Country Club in Oakmont, Pa., Friday, July 9, 2010.

Associated Press

until the end of the year.

"I've worked my whole life to be world number one and I'm in a position now to do it."

Yao Ming says he may quit if foot doesn't fully heal

work at center.

The 7-foot-6 Yao, who was in his native China for a series of charity events, all but ruled out playing for his country in the 2012 London Olympics.

"The chance (to play in London) is very small. The foot injury will not allow me to play so many games anymore," Yao was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua News Agency. "Like I said before, I will quit the national team and the sport one day. It's what happens to every athlete."

Without Yao, who remains wildly popular in China, the country's national team has only managed a series of lackluster performances, including an embarrassing home loss to Iran in the final of the Asian Championship last year.

Yao, who turns 30 in September, said the poor showings stemmed from China's focus on preparations for the 2008 Beijing Olympics, while neglecting development teams and the country's professional league.

"We are paying for what we didn't do leading up to 2008. We skipped the development of a reserve team and the CBA league and focused only on the national team and the Olympics. It's like you are killing the goose that lays the golden egg," he said. "I'm 30. As an athlete, I am not the future of China basketball anymore." □



This photo taken Oct. 25, 2009 shows former Oakland Raider Jack Tatum before an NFL football game between the New York Jets and the Oakland Raiders in Oakland, Calif. Tatum, the All-Pro safety for the Oakland Raiders best known for his hit that paralyzed Darryl Stingley in an NFL preseason game in 1978, has died. He was 61.

Associated Press

Hard-hitting former Raider Jack Tatum dies at 61

By RUSTY MILLER

AP Sports Writer

COLUMBUS, Ohio — Jack Tatum, the Pro Bowl safety for the Oakland Raiders best known for his crushing hit that paralyzed Darryl Stingley in an NFL preseason game in 1978, has died. He was 61. Nicknamed "The Assassin," Tatum, died of a heart attack Tuesday in an Oakland hospital, according to friend and former Ohio State teammate John Hicks. Hicks said Tatum had diabetes the last several years, and lost his left leg because of circulation problems.

On Aug. 12, 1978, in an exhibition game against the New England Patriots, the hard-hitting Tatum slammed into Stingley with his helmet while the receiver was running a crossing pattern.

Continued on Page 14

"To be world number one it's going to take probably a couple more tournament wins," Kerr said. "I've had a good start to the season as far as trying to accomplish that. I've just got to keep playing well. "I enjoy playing Birkdale. It's one of the best courses in the world. I played a lot of good golf when we were here in 2005 despite the weather and birdied the last hole to finish fifth. So I have good memories of playing here."

Joint second at the Women's British Open at Royal Lytham in 2006 behind fellow American Sherri Steinhauer, Kerr will play with compatriot Brittany Lincicome and 1990 champion Helen Alfredsson of Sweden in the first two rounds. □

However, Kerr knows it would only be a stepping stone if she succeeded this week at one of her favorite courses.

Feds seek records from '04 Armstrong doping case

JIM VERTUNO

AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Federal prosecutors investigating cheating in professional cycling have subpoenaed documents from a 2004 case in which a Texas company tried to prove Lance Armstrong used performance enhancing drugs. Jeffrey Tillotson, the attorney

who handled the case for Dallas-based SCA Promotions Inc., said Tuesday that his office will send the documents to federal prosecutors in Los Angeles.

The records include depositions from former Tour de France winner Greg LeMond, former Armstrong teammate Frankie Andreu and his wife, and testimony from

Armstrong and his business associates. The Wall Street Journal first reported the subpoena Tuesday.

Armstrong has not received any subpoenas or official requests from federal investigators, according to his attorney, Bryan D. Daly, a criminal defense lawyer and former federal prosecutor based in Los Angeles.

AP Sources: Bengals reach deal with T.O.



Terrell Owens, an unrestricted and unsigned free agent wide receiver, talks during an interview, Tuesday, July 13, 2010 in New York. Owens played the 2009 season for the Buffalo Bills.

Associated Press

By JOE KAY

AP Sports Writer

CINCINNATI — A year after they were featured on HBO's "Hard Knocks," the Bengals have scripted their own reality show.

T.O. and Ocho. Two self-conscious stars, one NFL team.

How will they fit? How will it work? Which receiver will provide most of the drama?

And, more importantly, will any of it help the Bengals get back to the playoffs?

The Bengals reached a contract agreement with receiver Terrell Owens on Tuesday, two persons familiar with the situation told The Associated Press. He's expected to report to training camp in a day or two and sign a one-year deal that will pay him \$2 million with a chance for an additional \$2 million in bonuses.

The Bengals were his first choice, giving him a chance to team with close friend Chad Ochocinco, who has already dubbed the pair Batman and Robin. The Bengals made an offer on Monday, and Owens accepted a day later.

Players are required to report

for the start of training camp on Wednesday in Georgetown, Ky. Owens is expected to show up when workouts begin on Thursday, said one person speaking on condition of anonymity because the team had made no announcement of the signing.

On his Twitter account, Owens replied to Ochocinco late Tuesday: "Ocho Uno is coming 2 town!! Hey Robin, Batman will b there soon!" He's expected to sign his deal when he arrives in Georgetown.

Already, it's like something out of a reality show.

Ochocinco gushed about the matchup on his Twitter feed, welcoming Owens and joking that "all of our games have been moved to pay-per-view, you got to pay to see this."

Both of the look-at-me receivers are accustomed to cable.

By adding the 36-year-old Owens, the Bengals will lead the NFL in reality show stars. Ochocinco competed on "Dancing With the Stars" in the offseason, and has a dating show called "Ochocinco: The Ultimate Catch" currently

running on VH1. After Ochocinco's show comes "The T.O. Show."

Ochocinco's last show involved eliminating two contestants. Owens' last program had him walking down a runway as part of a fashion show in metrosexual attire — bare chest under an open jacket with a huge necklace and a wig.

In a couple of days, it will be the dancer-and-dater on one side of the field, the metrosexual model on the other.

In the middle will be quarterback Carson Palmer, who helped bring Owens to Cincinnati. Palmer worked out with Owens in California and called coach Marvin Lewis, saying the team ought to try to sign him.

"He and Chad are going to do some great things with Carson," said Drew Rosenhaus, the agent for both receivers. "Carson Palmer had a lot to do with this deal coming together."

Bengals owner Mike Brown went along, even though he knew Owens also brings a lot of baggage. The outspoken receiver has a history of undercutting his quarterbacks, though he was on good behavior last season in Buffalo.

Brown doesn't mind. He has a history of providing extra chances to players who have caused trouble, allowing them to extend their careers in Bengals stripes. In the last two years, the Bengals also have signed receiver Chris Henry, running back Cedric Benson, running back Larry Johnson and receiver Matt Jones, all of whom were let go because of off-field issues. □



Lance Armstrong of the US looks back on the podium after the 20th and last stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 63.7 miles with start in Longjumeau and finish in Paris, France, Sunday, July 25, 2010.

Associated Press

"Truthfully, I don't have any idea how Lance Armstrong fits into this whole thing," Daly said. "Lance Armstrong doesn't want to be stuck in the middle of a celebrity investigation."

Armstrong and SCA went to arbitration after the company withheld a \$5 million performance bonus it owed Armstrong for his 2004 Tour de France win. SCA had cited published allegations Armstrong was doping, which he denied.

The cyclist never has failed a drug test and has strongly denied all allegations he participated in doping.

The 2004 case ended with SCA paying Armstrong \$7.5 million, covering the original contract plus attorneys fees and interest. Sean Breen, one of Armstrong's attorneys in the SCA case, said most of the case testimony already had been leaked in recent years.

"There's nothing in (the subpoenaed documents) that hasn't been released or would support any contention he was doping or cheated," Breen said.

Federal prosecutors' investigation was spurred by more recent accusations from Floyd Landis, Armstrong's former teammate on the U.S. Postal team. Armstrong has denied the allegations and questioned Landis' credibility. Armstrong won the Tour de France a record seven times from 1999-2005, an era that started after his recovery from testicular cancer that had spread to his lungs and brain. The SCA case involved three

weeks of testimony from dozens of witnesses. Betsy Andreu claimed that days after Armstrong underwent brain surgery in 1996, he told a doctor he used the blood-boosting hormone EPO and other drugs. Frankie Andreu also gave similar testimony. Armstrong denied those claims and his lawyer released an affidavit from the doctor who led his chemotherapy treatments saying there is no medical record of any such admission.

"I would have recorded such a confession as a matter of form, as indeed, would have my colleagues," Dr. Craig Nichols said. "None was recorded." Other allegations in the case included LeMond saying Armstrong threatened his life, a charge Armstrong dismissed as "ridiculous." America's top two cyclists have feuded for years.

Federal investigators in Los Angeles also have sought records from several Armstrong associates, including LeMond and former teammate Tyler Hamilton.

LeMond attorney Mark Handfelt said in an e-mail to The Associated Press that the request to his client was only for documents, not testimony. Hamilton's attorney, Chris Manderson, confirmed a subpoena had been issued to his client, but declined to discuss the details.

"Tyler would have preferred to stay out of this," Manderson said. "He wants to concentrate on his training business and his own battle with depression." □



USA's Jennie Finch waves to the fans as she leaves the field in the seventh inning against Japan in the World Cup of Softball Championship game in Oklahoma City, Monday, July 26, 2010.

Associated Press

JEFF LATZKE

AP Sports Writer

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Caitlin Lowe had a two-run triple as the United States beat Japan 5-1 Monday to win its fourth straight World Cup of Softball title.

U.S. beats Japan 5-1 to win softball WCup

Pitcher Jennie Finch, 29, playing her final game for the United States, was pulled with two outs in the seventh inning and received a standing ovation as she headed into the dugout, stopping momentarily to wave to the crowd.

Finch didn't allow a run in 18 2-3 innings at the World Cup, although she wasn't much of a factor in her final game. Jessica Mendoza put the U.S. on top with an RBI single in the first inning, and Lowe made it 3-0 with her two-run triple down the right-field line in the second.

Japan got its only run on Eri Yamada's two-out RBI

single in the top of the third.

The U.S. answered in the bottom of the inning when Kaitlin Cochran walked, advanced on a wild pitch and scored on second baseman Kasumi Mizoe's error taking a throw at first on Andrea Duran's bunt.

Finch is leaving to spend more time with her 4-year-old son, Ace, and continue adding to her family with husband Casey Daigle. Daigle, a pitcher who has split this season between the Houston Astros and the minor leagues, was able to get away for her final game and join a contingent of family that also included Finch's 89-year-old grandmother.

She will continue playing professionally with the Chicago Bandits until the National Pro Fastpitch season ends next month. □



This Aug. 12, 1978 file photo shows Oakland Raider's Jack Tatum (32) hitting New England Patriots receiver Darryl Stingley (84) during an NFL preseason football game in Oakland, Calif. He was 61. Nicknamed "The Assassin," Tatum died of a heart attack Tuesday July 27, 2010 in Oakland, according to friend and former Ohio State teammate John Hicks.

Associated Press

TATUM

Continued from Page 12

The blow severed Stingley's fourth and fifth vertebrae and left the receiver paralyzed from the neck down.

The two never met after the hit. Stingley died in 2007.

Tatum was not penalized on the play and the NFL took no disciplinary action, but it did tighten its rules on violent hits. Despite Tatum's failure

to show remorse, Hicks said Tatum was haunted by the play.

"It was tough on him, too," Hicks said. "He wasn't the same person after that. For years he was almost a recluse."

Tatum had said he tried to visit Stingley at an Oakland hospital shortly after the collision but was turned away by Stingley's family members.

"It's not so much that Darryl doesn't want to, but it's the people around him," Tatum told the Oakland Tribune in 2004. "So we haven't been able to get through that. Every time we plan something, it gets messed up. Getting to him or him getting back to me, it never happens."

Part of the alienation came after Tatum wrote the 1980 book, "They Call Me Assassin," in which he was unapologetic for his headhunting ways.

In a statement, the Raiders said, "Jack was a true Raider champion and a true Raider warrior. ... Jack was the standard bearer and an inspiration for the position of safety throughout college and professional football."

After starring for Ohio State under coach Woody Hayes, Tatum was drafted in the first round by the Raiders in 1971. In nine seasons with the Raiders, Tatum started 106 of 120 games with 30 interceptions and helped Oakland win the 1976 Super Bowl. He played his final season with the Houston Oilers in 1980. □

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NL Roundup

Lidge escapes again, Phillies hold off Rockies 5-4

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Brad Lidge escaped another bases-loaded jam in the ninth inning as the Philadelphia Phillies held off the Colorado Rockies 5-4 Monday to complete a four-game sweep.

Backup catcher Brian Schneider's two-run triple sent the Phillies toward their fifth straight win. The two-time NL champions, still minus injured All-Star second baseman Chase Utley, pulled within 4½ games of idle East-leading Atlanta.

Seth Smith hit a two-out, two-run homer off Lidge in the ninth and Colorado went on to load the bases, but Ryan Spilborghs hit a tapper to the left side of the plate. Lidge came in and made a strong throw to first base for the final out, getting his 10th save in 13 chances.

Brewers 3, Reds 2

At Milwaukee, pinch-hitter Jim Edmonds homered with two outs in the eighth after just missing a go-ahead shot on the previous pitch as Milwaukee rallied to beat Cincinnati.

Rickie Weeks hit a two-run homer in the third inning as Milwaukee won its fifth

straight to match a season-best streak after trailing 2-0 early.

Edmonds has been unable to play the field since his right Achilles' tendon tightened Saturday night, but he didn't need to run hard after his at-bat against Bronson Arroyo (10-6) in the eighth.

Edmonds hit a big blast off a fastball, dropping the bat only to watch his shot sail foul. He sent the next pitch over the Reds' bullpen in right-center field.

Cubs 5, Astros 2

At Houston, Geovany Soto drove in two runs and Alfonso Soriano had two doubles and an RBI to help Chicago beat Houston.

Cubs starter Carlos Silva (10-4) yielded five hits and one run with four strikeouts. Carlos Marmol allowed one hit in a scoreless ninth inning for his 19th save in 23 opportunities.

Soto bruised his left foot and left the game in the middle of the sixth inning after fouling a pitch off of it earlier in the inning.

Derrek Lee doubled with one out in the third inning and scored when Marlon Byrd grounded into a force out. Byrd scored when Soriano hit his second double of the

game that made it 4-1.

Marlins 4, Giants 3

At San Francisco, Dan Uggla and Mike Stanton each hit solo homers as Florida moved above the .500 mark for the first time since early June.

Ricky Nolasco (11-7) struck out seven and allowed four hits and one run in 6 1-3 strong innings to win for the sixth time in seven starts. Cody Ross had a sacrifice fly and Stanton added an insurance RBI double in the eighth.

Pitcher Barry Zito (8-6) lost for the first time in seven career starts against the Marlins and the Giants had their four-game winning streak snapped. This series



Philadelphia Phillies' Brian Schneider connects for a two-run triple off Colorado Rockies pitcher Jason Hammel in the second inning of a baseball game, Monday, July 26, 2010, in Philadelphia. Philadelphia won 5-4.

Associated Press

is a matchup of two surging teams trying to stay in the playoff chase.

Florida is 50-49, above .500 for the first time since the club was 28-27 on June 3.

In other NL games it was Philadelphia 5, Colorado 4; Chicago Cubs 5, Houston 2; Milwaukee 3, Cincinnati 2; and Florida 4, San Francisco 3. □

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AL Roundup

Matt Garza gives TB Rays first no-hitter

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Matt Garza pitched the first no-hitter in Tampa Bay Rays history and the fifth in the major leagues this season, beating the Detroit Tigers 5-0 Monday. Garza faced the minimum 27 batters, allowing only a second-inning walk, for a team that's often been on the wrong end of pitching gems lately.

The last time there were at least five no-hitters in a season was 1991, when Hall of Famer Nolan Ryan threw one of seven in the big leagues that year, according to STATS LLC.

Garza (11-5) struck out six in Tampa Bay's 2,039th game — and on a night when the Rays struggled to generate much offense themselves.

Matt Joyce's grand slam with two outs in the sixth was the first hit off Detroit starter Max Scherzer (7-8). The next batter, Jason Bartlett, singled for the only other hit of the night until Crawford homered in the eighth.

Yankees 3, Indians 2

At Cleveland, Curtis



Tampa Bay Rays pitcher Matt Garza throws in the first inning of his no-hitter against the Detroit Tigers in a baseball game Monday, July 26, 2010, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays won 5-0.

Associated Press

Granderson hit a two-run shot and Alex Rodriguez missed out on his 600th homer as New York beat Cleveland.

Granderson connected with one out off Jake Westbrook

(6-7), who held Rodriguez hitless in three at-bats and was clinging to a 2-1 lead. Jorge Posada reached on a one-out single before Granderson delighted the many Yankees fans in the crowd of 27,224 hoping to see homer history.

Rodriguez popped out to first against reliever Chris Perez in the ninth to finish an 0 for 4 night.

Choo Shin-soo put Cleveland ahead 2-1 in the sixth with an RBI double off Javier Vasquez (9-7). Travis Hafner hit a solo homer in the second. It was the designated hitter's fifth straight hit.

Blue Jays 9, Orioles 5

At Toronto, Jose Bautista

hit his major league-leading 28th home run, and Aaron Hill and Adam Lind also connected as Toronto beat Baltimore for the 10th straight time.

Hill hit a two-run homer in the fourth, and the Blue Jays smacked two more in the fifth. Bautista hit a three-run shot and Lind added a solo blast. Toronto leads baseball with 152 homers this season, including a league-high 37 in July. The Blue Jays also lead the majors with 82 homers in home games.

White Sox 6, Mariners 1

At Chicago, John Danks pitched eight solid innings to win his fourth consecutive start, helping Chicago beat Felix Hernandez and Seattle.

Juan Pierre and Alexei Ramirez each had three hits for the White Sox, who kicked off a seven-game homestand with their season-high eighth consecutive victory at U.S. Cellular Field. It's their longest home winning streak since a nine-game surge in 2008.

Hernandez (7-7) ran his scoreless streak against the White Sox to 25 2-3 innings before Pierre and Omar Vizquel hit consecutive RBI singles with two out in the third, giving Chicago a 2-1 lead.

At Kansas City, Missouri, Joe Mauer had five hits and a career-best seven RBIs and Danny Valencia went 4 for 4 with a grand slam for his first major league home run to lead Minnesota past Kansas City.

Mauer, the 2009 American League MVP, was 5 for 5

with three singles, a double and a three-run home run that made it 17-0 in the seventh. The five hits tied his career best as the Twins set a season-high in runs and tied their season-best with 20 hits.

Wilson Betemit's RBI double off Anthony Slama with two out in the ninth prevented the Royals from suffering their worst shutout loss ever.

Red Sox 6, Angels 3

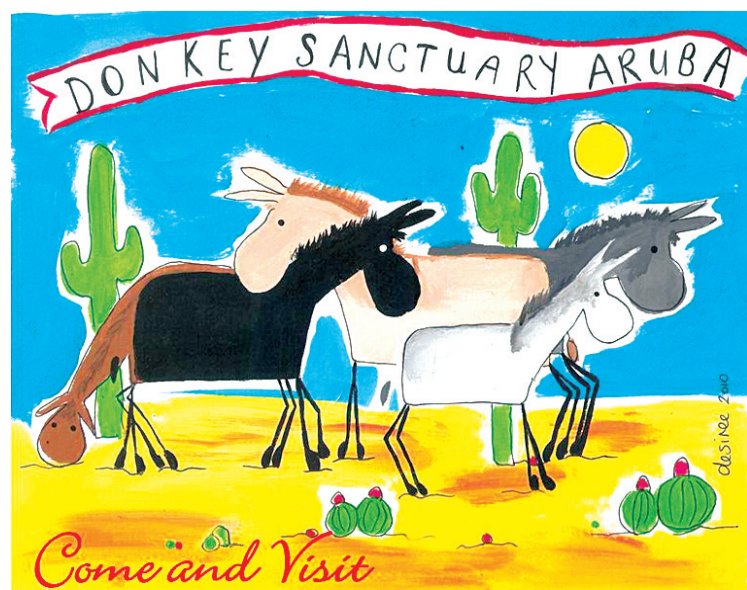
At Anaheim, California, David Ortiz hit two home runs in the same stadium where he won the Home Run Derby nearly two weeks ago, and Clay Buchholz pitched seven strong innings as Boston beat the slumping Angels.

Dan Haren (0-1) struck out eight in his Angels debut before Kevin Youkilis' fifth-inning line drive hit him in the right arm. Los Angeles traded four players to Arizona to land the three-time All-Star, whose bruised forearm will be re-evaluated Tuesday.

Hideki Matsui hit a two-run homer in the eighth for the Angels, but J.D. Drew hit a two-run double in the ninth for Boston.

Buchholz (11-5) gave up five hits and one run in his first win since a stint on the disabled list, but late-inning drama followed him.

In other AL games it was N.Y. Yankees 3, Cleveland 2; Toronto 9, Baltimore 5; Tampa Bay 5, Detroit 0; Minnesota 19, Kansas City 1; Chicago White Sox 6, Seattle 1; and Boston 6, L.A. Angels 3. □



Champagne Brunch every Sunday

Sunset Grille now serving Breakfast Buffet everyday



PALM BEACH -- The Sunset Grille Restaurant, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa now serves an extensive breakfast buffet every day, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. On Sundays, the restaurant's Breakfast Buffet is available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at which time the display is expanded and enriched to serve an unforgettable Sunday Champagne Brunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Page B8

If profitable

Aruba Refinery to restart in September

SAN NICOLAS - Valero Energy Corp plans to restart its shut 235,000 barrel per day (bpd) Aruba refinery in September after completing an overhaul currently underway and if the plant can operate at a profit, Chief Executive Bill Klesse said in a statement this week.

"When complete in September, this work will provide us the option to resume operations at the Aruba refinery if conditions are profitable and will enhance strategic alternatives for the refinery," Klesse said.

Valero Energy on Tuesday reported its first profitable quarter since early 2009, as it made more money refining diesel fuel and other products. America's largest independent oil refiner earned \$583 million, or \$1.03 per share, in the second quarter. That compares with a loss of \$254 million, or 48 cents per share, for the same quarter last year.

Valero Energy Corp. reported higher margins on diesel fuel and other products like petrochemicals, asphalt and lube oils. Valero's retail business posted a company record of \$109 million in operating income during the quarter.

Revenue rose 25 percent to \$21.8 billion. Analysts had expected earnings of 71 cents per share on revenue of \$21.7 billion.

"It's great to be profitable again," said Bill Klesse, chairman and CEO of the San Antonio refiner.

Klesse said margins look "relatively good" so far in the third quarter, though they're down from the previous quarter. He acknowledged that future results depend on the strength of the U.S. economic recovery.

"Valero makes and sells fuels, so we need consumers to get back to work and the economy to grow faster," he said.

Continued on Page 5



Delta Airlines expands service to Aruba

La Guardia to receive additional weekly service in the winter season



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) has received word from Delta Airlines that as of December 18, 2010 through April 30, 2011, air service to Aruba will be expanded with weekly service from La Guardia airport. Service will be on Saturdays only and Delta plans to utilize B737-800 aircraft comfortably seating 16 passengers in business and 144 in economy. The flights will conveniently leave New York's La Guardia airport at 10:36 in the morning and arrive in Aruba at 17:30 in the late afternoon. Delta Airlines expansion of service into Aruba underscores AAA's focus on diversification within our gateways and believes that Delta's service perfectly compliments Continental Airlines's service from La Guardia. Continental utilizes the same type of aircraft and arrives earlier in the afternoon at 13:19.

"We are delighted with the enhancement of Delta Airlines's commitment to Aruba. New York is an extremely important market for the destination and service from all three airports is vital to our success in the northeast area" said Peter Steinmetz, Managing Director AAA. "We look forward to welcoming the first flight of many flights from La Guardia by Delta Airlines"

Summer Sale Continues at EQ3



EAGLE – The EQ3 Furniture + Accents Store was a hub of activity this past weekend as its Summer Sale commenced with a great number of EQ3

clients and fans coming in to check out the selected furniture pieces including bedrooms, armchairs, TV cabinets, coffee tables and



rugs, on discount, together with lighting fixtures, mirrors and accessories.

The EQ3 Furniture + Accents Store just recently moved to Schotlandstraat 45, across the street from Ling & Sons into a large and inviting space.

Store Manager Lynn Maduro welcomed her guests with delicious cappuccinos and browsing opportunities through the EQ3 catalogues and books.

The EQ3 Summer Sale will go on for just a few more days so hurry up and get your purchases made. The store is offering a special until August 14th: Clients may send in the picture of their EQ3 furniture or accessory to be included in a raffle for a Crush Chair, value Awg 1,699.- under the "Show Us Your EQ3 Promotion," on Facebook. □



From Fodor's Travel

Aruba Marriott Earns Fodor's Choice 2010 Distinction



PALM BEACH – The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino has been recognized by Fodor's Travel, the foremost name in travel publishing, as a 2010 Fodor's Choice selection. This distinction represents a remarkable achievement and recognizes The Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino as a leader in its field for service, quality, and value in the 2010 year.

Since 1988, Fodor's Travel has been awarding the Fodor's Choice distinction to only the very best hotels, restaurants and attractions around the world. Every year, Fodor's writers experience, examine and evaluate thousands of hotels, restaurants and attractions in their travels across the globe. While every business included in a Fodor's guide is deemed worth a traveler's time, only fifteen percent of those selections are awarded the very highest, Fodor's Choice designation by Fodor's editors.

"From hidden-away restaurants to can't-miss

museums, Fodor's Choice selections recognize the top sights, properties, and experiences our editors and updaters have found in their travels," says Fodor's publisher Tim Jarrell. "These places are the best of the best, providing a remarkable experience in their price range or category."

"We are delighted to have been selected among one of Fodor's Choice hotels, particularly because of their reputation as a reliable source for travelers over the years," comments Aruba Marriott's Director of Sales & Marketing Antoinette van den Berg.

As a 2010 Fodor's Choice recipient the Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino receives special recognition in the current Fodor's guidebook to this region and on Fodors.com.

Aruba Marriott Resort & Stellaris Casino boasts 411 guestrooms -- the most spacious on the island -- each with large, private balconies overlooking lush landscape



and the sparkling waters of the Caribbean Sea. On property, seven restaurants and cafes provide fare from light to elegant, while the largest casino in Aruba, a 6,500 square-foot spa, free-form swimming pool with cascading waterfalls and high-energy health club offer entertaining diversions.

Fodor's Travel, a division of Random House, Inc., is one of the world's leading providers of travel information. Covering over 300 destinations worldwide, Fodor's guidebooks and Web site, Fodors.com, have provided the most up-to-date, accurate information for travelers for more than seventy years. Written by a team of over 700 writers located around the globe, Fodor's provides travelers with engagingly written, intelligently and accurately reported, and absolutely indispensable travel guidance.

MARRIOTT INTERNATIONAL, INC. is a leading lodging company with more than 3,400 lodging properties in 68 countries and

territories. The company is headquartered in Bethesda, Maryland, USA and had approximately 137,000 employees at 2009 year-end. It is recognized by FORTUNE® as one of the best companies

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PALM BEACH – The Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa bid stagier Sven Freerks, from the Netherlands, farewell having spend 6 months in Aruba at the Sales & Marketing Department. Sven created various reports and conducted a number of surveys while at the resort earning him gratitude and appreciation, as he nicely

collaborated with his colleagues in the sales and marketing department especially his boss Senior Sales Manager Lily Polsbroek. Pictured here the congenial farewell at Mira Solo Martini Bar over delicious hors d'oeuvres courtesy of the Food & Beverage Department. □

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**"FAVI FUNDACION
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Aruba Refinery to restart in September

Continued from Page B1

American motorists are starting to return to the roads and pushed the country's petroleum consumption about 5 percent higher quarter-over-quarter, according to the Energy Information Administration.

Refineries have struggled during the recession as millions of workers received pink slips and stayed home. Oil prices also shot up as traders used energy commodities as an investment tool. Refineries had a tough time passing on those higher costs to customers.

Valero idled its Aruba refinery and sold off another plant in Delaware as it dealt with a string of quarterly losses.

Klesse said the company may resume operations at its Aruba refinery in September

In order to continue satisfying

the nitrogen demand of refinery units and comply with quality, reliability and safety standards, Valero Aruba chose to build a new generation and distribution facility. With a vaporization capacity of 1.92 MMSCFD, Valero Aruba's new nitrogen facility will be a great benefit and asset of the Aruba refinery.

The location for this new nitrogen facility will be on the available space North of C7AR and East of the DMAR unit and will be built on a fenced area of 147 by 131 ft. This project entails a capital investment of \$1.8 million for the Valero Aruba Refinery.

Local contractors, ALBO Aruba and CUSTOMS Contractors are the contractors involved in this civil phase of the project, while De Cuba Electrical Contractors will be involved with the electrical



installation. The mechanical piping part of the project is in the design phase and will be ready in time to complete the project as scheduled.

The plant execution started in May 2010 and is scheduled to be operational by the second week of September 2010. The plant will be capable of producing up to 30,000 cubic

feet/hour of nitrogen gas and 1,200 gallons of liquid nitrogen per day.

The project is engineered and executed in close coordination with OXICAR who is the supplier of the equipment and future operator of the unit. For the purpose administration and operation of the facility, OXICAR established a



subsidiary local company GASTECH.

Valero Aruba appreciates the commitment of all involved parties and our employees that will make this project a reality while moving forward to a safe, event free and on scheduled completion of Valero Aruba's New Nitrogen Facility.

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ICOM America, part of ICOM Incorporated a world leader in radio communication products, and Zenitel Caribbean BV have executed a strategic partnership which gives Zenitel, an international market leader in integrated communications solutions, the Caribbean distribution and service rights for ICOM's products.

With extensive research and development facilities, ICOM has positioned itself as a highly innovative company, with products such as the world's first floating marine hand-held, digital technology in land-mobile and amateur radio, not to mention intuitive speaker-mic UHF CB units designed to fit within the confines of today's vehicles, where space is constricted

The broad range of products manufactured by ICOM includes: commercial land-mobile (digital and analogue), marine (communication and navigation), air-band, UHF CB, as well as amateur and receiver units. Zenitel Caribbean

BV also has a fully qualified service department with well trained technicians on-site, as well as a friendly sales team and efficient warehouse facility.

Zenitel specializes where fast, reliable and secure communication is essential. "We are excited to extend our product and service portfolio with ICOM said Robbert Willemsen, Managing Director of Zenitel Caribbean BV, "As Zenitel looks to grow its business in the Caribbean, we will work to ensure that the ICOM products are accessible to the right customers in the right places and at the right time."

About Zenitel:

Zenitel Caribbean is part of the worldwide Zenitel Group which is a listed company (EuroNext). Zenitel Caribbean is present on the islands Aruba, Bonaire, Curacao, St. Maarten, Anguilla, Statia and Saba.

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About

ICOM: America's parent company, ICOM Inc, was founded in Osaka, Japan. ICOM is a publicly held Japanese corporation; its stock is traded on the Osaka and Tokyo Stock Exchange. ICOM began as an engineering and manufacturing company, making advanced, compact solid-state radio equipment for use by amateur radio enthusiasts. ICOM has since grown to become an industry leader with a product line that includes state-of-the-art communications equipment for land mobile and marine use as well as avionics




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When your structure first crumbles, it is important to stay busy and keep interacting with people. This will help balance your initial shock. It then becomes important to define a new goal and work toward it. Interacting with people you enjoy creates opportunity, support and cooperation. Tell them your story and ask them about themselves. Explore how you can help each other.

First, direct your action toward meeting your immediate necessities. If

you need an income, take action every day to get one. Introduce yourself to people, talk to people, ask if they know of anyone who might need what you can offer. Look in the papers, search the web. Give everyone you meet your name, number and experience. Business cards work great. They can be extremely inexpensive and often free online.

To find a goal, focus on your emotions. What are you emotionally passionate about? What in society breaks your heart? Now

think about how you can spend your time and get paid fighting against what breaks your heart. Be clever. Search for your unique talent.

Imagine a situation in which you can use your unique talent to make money fighting for any cause you believe in. Pay attention to the synchronicities that happen in daily life. Where does the easy effort point? What seems to just fall into place? This is your personal Spirit pointing to your Life's Path.

and opportunity, no matter where we are.

Be strong and don't be desperate no matter how bad things get. Remain Calm and Stay Cool. Seasons change even if we don't do anything. Never give up hope for the future.

Tomorrow I will reveal the key element that you can control throughout your daily actions, which sets the tone of the results of your efforts.

Until Tomorrow...

Go to www.HumanHints.com to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

~Quentin Danziger

Quentin has over 20 years

experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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NEW		matinee:	late show: 11:15	
PG	MONSTERS VS ALIENS	daily: 12:00	4:30	
NEW		matinee: 14:15	late show:	
PG	DESPICABLE ME 3D	daily: 4:30		
		matinee: 12:00	2:15	late show:
PG	THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE	daily: 5:30	8:00	
		matinee: 12:30	3:00	late show: 11:00
PG	THE KARATE KID	daily: 12:15	3:15	late show:
		matinee:		
PG-13	GROWN UPS	daily: 4:45	7:00	9:15
		matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 11:30
PG	TOY STORY 3 3D	daily: 12:30	3:00	5:30
		matinee:		late show:
R	PREDATORS	daily: 6:30	9:00	
		matinee: 1:30	late show: 11:50	
PG	THE LAST AIRBENDER	daily: 6:45	9:00	
		matinee:	late show: 11:15	

AT PASEO HERENCIA				
PG-13	SALT Starting Monday July 26TH	daily: 4:15	6:30	8:30
NEW		matinee:	late show: 11:00	
G	THE PRINCESS AND THE FROG	daily: 12:00	2:00	late show:
		matinee:		
PG	DESPICABLE ME 3D	daily: 4:45		
		matinee: 12:15	2:30	late show:
PG	THE SORCERER'S APPRENTICE	daily: 1:00	3:45	6:15
		matinee:		late show: 8:45
PG	THE LAST AIRBENDER	daily: 7:00	9:15	
		matinee:	late show: 11:30	
PG-13	GROWN UPS	daily: 4:45	7:15	9:30
		matinee: 12:00	2:30	late show: 11:45
PG-13	KNIGHT & DAY	daily: 6:30	9:00	
		matinee:	late show: 11:30	
PG	THE KARATE KID	daily: 3:30		
		matinee: 12:30		late show:
PG-13	TOY STORY 3 3D	daily: 4:00	6:30	
		matinee: 1:30	late show:	
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Champagne Brunch every Sunday

Sunset Grille now serving Breakfast Buffet everyday



PALM BEACH -- The Sunset Grille Restaurant, Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa now serves an extensive breakfast buffet every day, from 7:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. On Sundays, the restaurant's Breakfast Buffet is available from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., at which time the display is expanded and enriched to serve an unforgettable Sunday Champagne Brunch, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Director of Food & Beverage Gerard Coste released the delicious brunch menu just recently stating that his culinary brigade came up with an interesting concept

combining buffet served specialties, and a la minute cooking from the exhibition kitchen.

Patron will find an assortment of freshly baked breakfast pastries and breads, hot and cold cereals, tropical fresh fruits and fruit yogurts, a display of iced shrimp, smoked salmon with cream cheese, imported cheeses and charcuterie, composed salads, Clam Chowder, fluffy scrambled eggs, eggs benedict with Hollandaise sauce, breakfast meats, link sausage, bacon, Caribbean breakfast potatoes, pancakes,



and French toast topped with creamy butter and maple syrup nicely laid out on the attractive buffet.

with tropical fruit relish, Chicken Drumette with BBQ teriyaki & stir fried vegetables, Pasta with a variety of sauces, Bolognese, Marinara and Creamy Escargots sauce, as well as freshly baked Pizza mozzarella, pepperoni or vegetarian. The sweet corner displays assorted cakes and pies, chocolate mousse, apple pie, cheese pie and local pastries.

Having sampled all appetizers patrons are invited to visit the exhibition kitchen of the Sunset Grille and ask the breakfast-chef for omelets made to order, including favorite fillings, or choose any, or all tasty main courses, such as Beef Tenderloin & Garlic Shrimp served with roasted sweet potato and asparagus, Pork Wellington in puff pastry with duxelle of wild mushrooms, and whole grain mustard sauce, Macadamia Crusted Grouper

The Sunday Champagne Brunch serves bottomless flutes of Champagne and Mimosa and offers terrace seating overlooking the tropical garden or an indoor, elegant, air-conditioned dining room. □



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PALM BEACH – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, homemade soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

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Celebrate tonight with Live Music & Entertainment at Casa Tua Barcelona



ORANJESTAD - Casa Tua Barcelona's Flamenco Show is the spot to be tonight with Angela Croes TONIGHT and then again on Friday.

Enjoy your Paella and Sangria together with these fantastic live shows! The downtown atmosphere is cool and relaxed with its in- and outside seating.

The highlight at Casa Tua Barcelona is also the new lunch specials every weekday from Monday till Friday! A \$9.95 lunch special; Beef tenderloin



with a red wine sauce or choose the Grouper Fillet for \$11.95. Both dishes include a soft drink. Fresh Fish lovers can treat the palate to the Whole Red Snapper, served with Rice and a salad.

All days of the week we serve Cold and Hot tapas as appetizers or the delicious Iberian Ham Pata Negra which we import directly from Andalucía. As your main course you could choose our Paella, traditionally prepared on the spot by our chef! Combine this Spanish dish with our home-made sangria to complete your dinner.

Of course we saved the best for last as no one does an ending better than Casa Tua with their dreamy Tiramisu. If you're into something different we suggest tasting the Espresso Martini Cocktail as dessert, you won't be disappointed.

The best part about such a good ending is that it guarantees you'll be back for more...



Casa Tua Barcelona Downtown open from 11.30am to 10.30pm, Sunday from 5pm to 11pm tel. 588 5695. Casa Tua Palm Beach open from 5pm to 11pm, tel 586 8470

Celebrating love with marriage at Tierra del Sol

Cathy & Mike exchange vows & rings



WEST PUNT, Aruba - Mike Mohamadi & Cathy Campesi celebrated their love for one another with the exchange of wedding rings symbolizing a

circle with no ending and vows of love for one another forever and ever. The celebration was officiated by Rev. Robert Gibson and coordinated by

Indira Maduro of Aruba Fairy Tales in the Garden of Tierra del Sol Resort, Spa and Country Club for an intimate ceremony with family and friends.

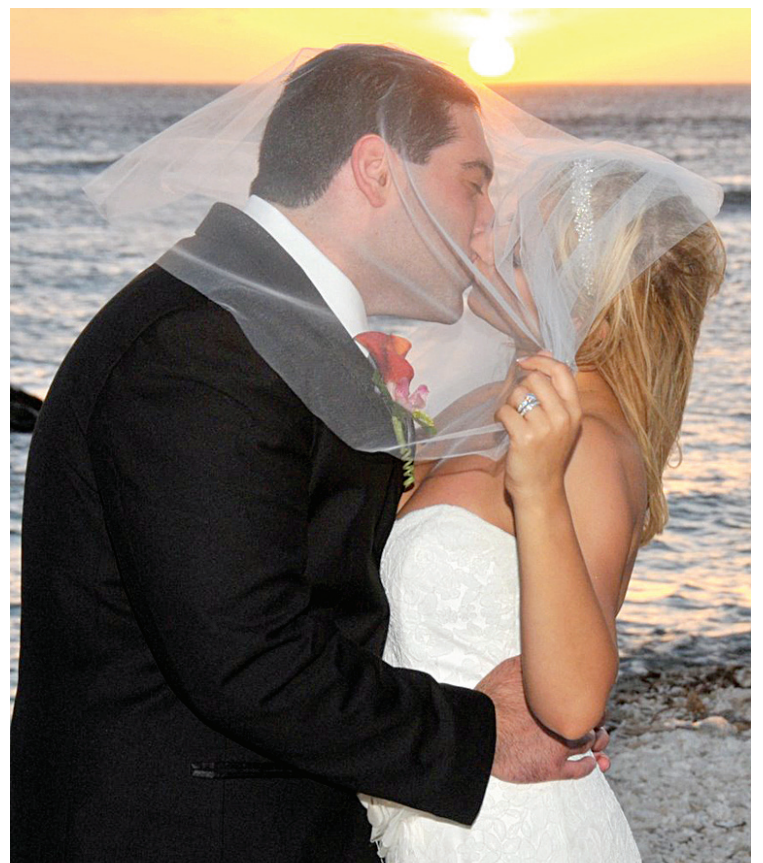
After the exchange of rings, vows and lots of first kisses, Cathy and Mike continued with a fabulous cocktail party, a romantic photo shoot, then an exquisite dinner and champagne toast followed by dancing at Ventanas del Mar in the Tiera del Sol Country Club. Martin Haselhof, General Manager Ventanas del Mar and his excellent staff orchestrated the evening of love for the couple, their



family and friends. The evening ended with the cutting of the cake ceremony then back to the Marriott Resort and Stellaris Casino for more dancing and fun. Mike vacationed on Aruba many times as a child with his family and convinced Cathy that Aruba was the perfect destination for their Fairy Tale

Wedding. Cathy said loves Aruba and the wind was a little more than she expected, but that it gave her hair the perfect style for the island wedding she dreamed of. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Cahthy Mohamadi from Aruba Fairy Tales and Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Eating the Crab before it eats You

By: Dr. Carlos Viana

Island life is beautiful, but when we need a change of pace, we love to travel back to the Chesapeake Bay, where Phyllis grew up. With family and friends, Phyllis and I enjoy eating the famous Maryland crabs smothered in spicy seasoning opened with wooden mallets and fingers. Yum! I always start by giving thanks for the many years Phyllis and I have spent safely sailing and SCUBA diving in the ocean and that we are eating the crabs, not them us.

The Latin name for crab is 'cancer'. Cancer is a medical condition where a malignant tumor or growth caused when cells multiply uncontrollably, destroying healthy tissue. Cancer has surpassed heart disease as the top killer of Americans under 85. The good news is that deaths from both are falling, but improvement has been more dramatic for heart disease. Is there a link between heart disease and cancer? A third of all cancers are related to smoking, and another third are related to obesity, poor diets and lack of exercise, all factors that contribute to heart disease.

Want to prevent becoming another cancer statistic? Many cancers are preventable. With some lifestyle changes you can drastically reduce your chances of contracting most cancers.

Control your insulin levels to eliminate obesity. Eat

according to your metabolic type and include antioxidants like vitamin C, E, and the B-complex in your supplement program. The potent anti-cancer effect of eating according to your blood type is very powerful. Make sure you are not in the two-thirds of the population who are overweight and maintain an ideal body weight.

Controlling insulin levels is one of the most powerful ways to reduce your cancer risks. Only 25 percent of people eat enough vegetables. Ideally, you should be eating five portions of fresh, organic vegetables. However, fresh conventionally grown vegetables are healthier than no vegetables at all. Fresh frozen is next best, but skip the canned and process type. Boil, poach or steam your foods, rather than frying or charbroiling them.

Get appropriate amounts of exercise. One of the primary reasons exercise works is that it drives your insulin levels down. The easiest exercise is walking. Another great exercise is swimming; ocean water adds healing sea minerals and detoxification. Walking on the beach has a triple bonus. Walking on sand and the ensuing extra effort needed to walk briskly on sand quickly raises your heart rate to levels that exercise the cardiovascular system. Exercise should be something you enjoy doing, not a chore. Phyllis and I include dancing

several times a week.

Walking and swimming in the early morning and late afternoon avoids sunburn and provides a safer amount of sunlight. Safe amounts of sun exposure works primarily by optimizing your vitamin D levels and is a natural anti-viral remedy. Ideally, it would be best to monitor your vitamin D levels. Even those of us who have regular access to sun exposure are finding that they have lower than optimum vitamin D levels. Foods that contain vitamin D are oily fish, eggs and liver products. If you live up north, you can supplement with fish oils like Cod liver oil to help increase vitamin D levels. Be aware that not all Omega, fish oils are created equal. Make sure you use only high quality fish oils that are certified to be free of toxic heavy metals like mercury.

Emotion or attitude causes 85 percent of disease. It is likely that depression may be more important than all the other physical reasons listed here in helping prevent cancer. Energy psychology is one of the best approaches to get the juices flowing again and to pull us out of our funk. Incredibly, I end up having to prescribe going to the beach to patients who live in Aruba, and have taken the beauty and healing ability of our tropical sea for granted.

Some visitors come to our beaches to relax and barely put down the cell phone or

laptop. When was the last time you totally "unplugged" and connected with nature? EMF's (Electrometric Fields) are a part of modern life, but interfere with our body energetically. Take a break in nature to reset and see how you feel.

How much restful sleep do you get? Research shows that the immune system needs 9 1/2 hours of sleep in total darkness to recharge completely. Only by getting enough high-quality sleep do you boost your melatonin levels. The nighttime hormone melatonin puts breast cancer cells to sleep. This natural supplement traditionally used to reset your sleep cycle can slow breast cancer growth by 70%. These findings may explain why nurses who often work the night shift have high rates of breast and colon cancer. We have seen good results in the ability to sleep and overall wellbeing in those using 5HTP, (5 Hydroxy Tryptophan).

Get The Point! Cancer has countless secondary causes. But, there is one prime cause, the replacement of the respiration of oxygen in normal body cells by a fermentation of sugar. This is why control of insulin, exercise, eating right for your metabolic type, including quality dietary supplements is part of a whole package that helps prevent cancer. Interested in a prevention program tailored to you? Call and make an appointment so



the crab does not eat you.

CARLOS VIANA, Ph. D. is an Oriental Medical Doctor (O.M.D.) having studied in Shanghai, China; a Board Cert. Clinical Nutritionist (C.C.N.), a fellow member of the Board Certified Association of Addiction Professionals (C.Ad.), the Chairperson of the Latin American Committee of the International Academy of Oral Medicine and Toxicology (IAOMT), a Rejuvenating Cell Therapist and specializes in Anti-Aging Medicine, has a weekly radio (The Barefoot Doctor) & TV show ("Salud, Vitalidad y Dinamismo" presenta pa Dr. Viana tur Diaranson na ATV 15 durante Noticia Awenochi) writes and lectures extensively. For information: VIANA NATURAL HEALING CENTER NV, Kibaima 7, Aruba, (Monday's: Noord, Bubali 11M) TEL: 585-1270 FAX: 585-4789, Web Sight: www.vianaheal.com

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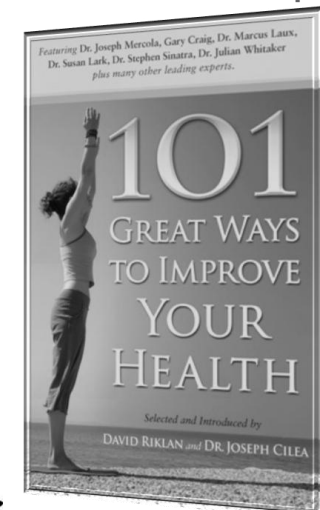
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Co-authored by Aruba's Carlos Viana, O.M.D., C.N.N.

New program rebuilding faces of soldiers, veterans



In this photo taken June 23, 2010, Master Sgt. Todd Nelson is reflected in a mirror as Dr. Joe Villalobos makes adjustments to a prosthetics ear at Wilford Hall Medical Center, in San Antonio. Nelson was injured in 2007 by an explosion while serving in Afghanistan.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)

By MICHELLE ROBERTS,
Associated Press Writer

SAN ANTONIO — Master Sgt. Todd Nelson lost his right eye and ear in a flash when a car bomb in Afghanistan exploded, sending fire up his arm and over his head.

Although it's taken years of painstaking work, the military has given him a bright blue eye and ear lightly freckled and pinked from summer sun. They're not flesh and blood, but the glass and silicon replicas are so realistic, so perfectly customized, that they've given Nelson something else: the ability to face the world without shocking it.

"Honestly, people really don't know it's artificial," said Nelson, whose injuries three years ago included third-degree burns, a skull fracture and broken jaw. "In casual social interactions, I see much smaller cases where people stare."

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have brought

a new kind of patient to the facial prosthetics lab at the Lackland Air Force Base: wounded warriors, who have recently suffered heavy burns and multiple traumas. The lab is one of two major facial prosthetic programs in the Defense Department, and it has seen an unprecedented new stream of wounded soldiers. Before the wars, the 26-year-old lab's patients were almost exclusively cancer and civilian trauma survivors, but "all of that prepared us for wartime, and that's really why our department is here," said lab director Dr. Joe Villalobos.

The lab doesn't track how many soldiers wounded from the war it's treated. However, before the wars began in 2001 and 2003, the facility rarely saw combat-related injuries — only an occasional Vietnam-era veteran looking for a new prostheses. Now, partly because the lab is across town from the Army's only burn center, wounded warriors

make up about one-fifth of the roughly 425 patients they treat each year.

While the technology and capabilities at the lab are available in the civilian world, the Lackland lab has the expertise and resources to give soldiers the best possible care with little concern about the financial burdens that civilian trauma patients might face, he said.

"Our goal is to give them the best of the best," Villalobos said. "We're going to give them the ideal treatment."

Patients at Lackland are treated with a combination of cutting-edge technology and carefully hand-hewed prosthetics.

Using specially designed computer equipment, technicians can turn an MRI into three-dimensional molds and create custom-fit pieces to replace missing jaw bones or sections of skull for implant. The lab has even done it remotely, creating a perfectly fitting replacement for one-third of a patient's skull at a hospital in Balad, Iraq, Villalobos said.

But sometimes, after patients have undergone life-saving surgeries and reconstruction work for basic functionality, aesthetics start to matter. Soldiers tire of stares and flashes of shock on the faces of people unaccustomed to severe burn injuries.

"When your face is affected, you lose your identity," said Villalobos. "We address that here."

Not everyone who loses an ear, eye or nose tip is interested in getting a new one. After the memory of what you used to look like begins to fade, "you start to accept who you are," said Nelson, a 37-year-old Army mechanic from Evergreen, Colo. And because burn patients typically undergo dozens of surgeries (Nelson is at 43 and counting), many are simply too procedure-weary to seek prosthetic ears or noses.

But Nelson said for him, "one of the things that bothered me the most aesthetically was the missing ear."

He knew getting a prosthetic right ear, sculpted to match his remaining ear on the left,



wouldn't make a functional difference. If anything, the prosthetic has slightly dampened noises.

"It was for form, but I couldn't help but want some of my form back," said Nelson, who sometimes wears a hair piece to cover his burned scalp.

To create prosthetic ears, the lab uses cameras that generate 3-D images for technicians to make molds. While adhesive can be used to keep prosthetic ears in place, younger patients like Nelson often opt for titanium implants that allow the prosthetic to magnet on.

When a patient has one ear

remaining, a mirror-image ear is created. Two missing ears are more difficult, said Villalobos, but the lab has created ears using family members as models.

One soldier wanted his father's ears, so the lab took images and created versions that were smaller and less wrinkly to make sure the prosthetic versions were right for the soldier's age, Villalobos said.

"It's easier to create a second ear if they have one already, but if someone comes in and says 'I want Clint Eastwood ears,' we can do that," he said, grinning. □



In this photo taken June 23, 2010, Dr. Joe Villalobos works on an artificial ear for Master Sgt. Todd Nelson in a facial prosthetics lab in San Antonio.

(AP Photo/Eric Gay)



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Trusted Most -- Men with Guns

Pat Buchanan

Public confidence in Congress has plummeted to the lowest level of any institution since Gallup began asking the question in 1973. One-half of all Americans have little or no confidence in the Congress. Only 11 percent have a “great deal” or “a lot of” confidence in what is, given its place of primacy in the Constitution, the first branch of government and the branch most representative of the people.

The house of such giants as Daniel Webster, Henry

Clay, John C. Calhoun and Henry Cabot Lodge, the greatest legislative body in the world that was home to John F. Kennedy’s “Profiles in Courage” who decided the questions of war and peace, Reconstruction and civil rights is now looked upon with pervasive mistrust.

Of the 16 major institutions of which the question was asked, Congress’ closest competitor for the least trusted was HMOs.

And this poll was taken after President Obama achieved what is being hailed by his party as the greatest legislative accomplishment since Medicare and Social Security.

Not only is this bad news for the Democratic Party this fall, it is reflective of the disdain if not contempt in which the nation’s political class is held by those they govern. Three times as many Americans have confidence in the Supreme Court as have in Congress.

And though Obama has been through a rough patch, three times as many Americans retain confidence in his office as have confidence in the Congress.

Even when Bush was at his nadir, in 2008, 26 percent professed a high level of confidence in the presidency, more than twice those who today have confidence in the institution led by Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid.

This would also seem to be bad news for democracy, as the closest competitor to Congress in public disregard was the 2008 Congress that enjoyed the trust of only one in eight Americans.

But the poll reveals even more about us as a people.

Only three institutions of the 16 have the solid confidence of the nation with more than 50 percent saying they have high confidence or a lot of confidence in them: the military at 76 percent, down from 82 percent a year ago, small business at 66 percent and the police at 58 percent.

All three institutions tend to be male-dominated, conservative and hierarchical.

Two of the three feature men with guns — the soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen

who defend us from foreign enemies, and the thin blue line that defends us from the predators at home.

Americans have a far greater appreciation of those who risk their lives to defend our country than for those who write its laws.

When one recalls how the military and police were regarded in the 1960s, the former being trashed for “the dirty and immoral war” in Vietnam, and the latter being called “racists” and “pigs” for battling campus radicals and urban rioters, what a difference a few decades can make.

What these surveys suggest is that the New Left of the 1960s was and is over-represented in the media depictions of that era. Some baby boomers were indeed in the mud at Woodstock.

But others were in the mud at Khe Sanh. And large majorities of baby boomers helped deliver to Ronald Reagan his historic landslides in 1980 and 1984.

Half of all Americans yet retain confidence in organized religion, an institution not wildly popular with our cultural and media elites. Yet, the churches retain twice the level of confidence of the newspapers, and more than twice the level of confidence of television news, which ranks just below “the banks” at 22 percent.

This explains why the public is less enthusiastic than the press about enacting “shield laws” to protect journalists’ sources.

While the number of those having a high measure of confidence in the medical system has risen from 36 percent to 40 percent during this year of debate on health care, confidence in the public schools fell from 38 percent to 34 percent. Despite immense infusions of federal cash, the public schools are still bleeding public esteem.

As for Big Business, confidence there is not one-third that of small business. Washington, Wall Street, New York — our media and financial capital — and the Business Roundtable are not beloved. □

Will Opposing Dems Be Enough for GOP This Year?

David Paul Kuhn

Beltway insiders have asked for months whether Republicans must do more than oppose Democrats to win back power.

“Just say no” has historically sufficed. Democrats’ offered no grand vision statement when they recaptured the House in 2006.

But Republicans are not taking their chances. The Contract with America’s sequel is coming soon. It’s debut, like the original, is expected in September. In truth, waves are waves regardless of these public relations events. The Contract with America typifies the sort of campaign news that consumes operatives and reporters but only matters on the margin — if at all.

Polling cannot prove whether the 1994 contract helped win any seats. Indeed, only slightly more than a third of adults said they heard of the contract in 1994. That’s before and after Election Day, according to Gallup. And within that minority, the contract won as many detractors as supporters.

Yet the case against mimicking the contract is even weaker. Critics question the wisdom of providing any alternative vision. Democrats fear a referendum on their majority. They want a “choice election.” And a Republican plan would clarify that choice.

But 1994 rebuts this critique. Democrats spent millions on advertising that assailed the contract. Bill Clinton sought to nationalize the campaign as a choice between his programs and Reaganism.

Clinton pollster Stan Greenberg thought that choice would “energize prospective Democratic voters.” In a memo leaked to reporters at the time, Greenberg painted Democrats as the party “of ordinary people.” Republicans, he wrote, “want to go back to the Reagan policies of tax cuts for the wealthy, exploding deficits, and cuts in Medicare.”

Replace Bush with Reagan. This sounds like the modern Democratic critique. But Reagan was a popular president. And the GOP had not controlled the House for four decades.

This is the best case for a contract 2.0. Democrats’ numbers have plummeted. But Republicans have not recovered. Only 35

percent of Americans had a favorable view of Republicans in mid November 2006. Republicans entered this summer only one point more popular, according to Gallup. Notably, in 1994, both parties enjoyed a more positive than negative rating.

What we have today is a failure at courtship. It’s the mirror dynamic of 2006. The big middle separated from Republicans four years ago. But they did not marry the other guy. Polling found independents sour on Republicans but no sweeter on Democrats. Today, the middle’s relationship with Democrats has soured. And Republicans are positioned for a second chance because they are not Democrats.

“Very few Americans are embracing the Republican Party. Rather they are rejecting the Democrats. And the GOP needs to understand that at their core,” said Republican pollster Frank Luntz, one of several key strategists behind the Contract with America. This is why Luntz believes a new contract “is absolutely necessary.”

“To distinguish between the two political a party requires something more than opposition,” Luntz added.

Luntz, like so many Republicans, recently cringed at the sight of one GOP leader’s inability to meet that bar. Texas Rep. Pete Sessions heads the GOP’s House election committee. But Sessions found himself unable to explain what would distinguish a Republican House from a Democratic House on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

“Name a painful choice that Republicans are prepared to say we ought to make,” host David Gregory asked.

Sessions said his party would “look at all that we are spending in Washington.” Then Sessions pitched the usual tropes. Big government bad. Free enterprise good.

“These are not specifics,” Gregory replied. Sessions continued to avoid specifics.

“It was frightening to watch,” Luntz said.

A new contract could help avoid such incidents. But even the most pitch-perfect vision statement will not dramatically boost Republicans’ vote on Election Day. □

Presidente Uribe rechaza internacionalizar proceso de paz con guerrilla colombiana

BOGOTA (Reuters) - El presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe, rechazó el martes cualquier internacionalización de procesos de paz con la debilitada guerrilla izquierdista de su país pues eso le serviría para “tomar oxígeno”, en medio de una disputa con Venezuela que tiene como centro a los rebeldes.

Bogotá y Caracas enfrentan su peor roce en más de dos décadas, pues acusaciones del Gobierno de Uribe de que su vecino da cobijo a líderes guerrilleros de las FARC y del ELN llevaron al Gobierno del presidente Hugo Chávez a romper los lazos diplomáticos. Para Uribe, que entregará la presidencia el 7 de agosto tras dos periodos de Gobierno en los que ha confrontado política e ideológicamente con Chávez, el peligro está en que la guerrilla a la que ha combatido duramente con éxitos reconocidos internacionalmente vuelva a sacar su ponzoña.

“Cuidado con aflojarle la nuca a la culebra, porque ella está medio dormida, pero si le aflojamos el pescuezo, vuelve a tomar oxígeno”, dijo en un acto de despedida en el Ministerio de Defensa, haciendo uso de su habitual lenguaje metafórico.

La declaración del mandatario se produjo mientras el canciller venezolano, Nicolás Maduro, hace una acelerada gira por Sudamérica preparando el camino para presentar el jueves ante el bloque regional Unasur una propuesta para sentar las bases de un proceso de paz con Colombia.

El Gobierno de Chávez rompió relaciones diplomáticas con Colombia el jueves pasado en rechazo a denuncias de Bogotá ante la OEA de que Venezuela estaría tolerando la presencia de 1.500 guerrilleros en su territorio. □



Foto de archivo del presidente colombiano, Alvaro Uribe. REUTERS/Jairo Castilla

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